



THE VOICE OF SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL SINCE 1909

TOWN CRIER

Volume XCVII Issue 3

February 2006

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Budget Woes Result in Substitute Staff Cuts



Colin Murphy
News Editor

The budget problems in Shrewsbury have recently become evident in the choice to maintain only two substitute teachers at the high school per day. The purpose of the cut is to save money in an attempt to make up for an estimated \$760,000 budget shortfall. The money saved by dropping the substitute's salaries will contribute at least \$100,000 to the budget. The other funds will be saved in a variety of such as not purchasing some printers and deferring some other payments.

"We look to cut where it will have the least effect on the kids," says Mr. Largess, director of substitutes at the high school. Before this budget problem, he estimated that we had four or five substitutes each day. The administration will take a few different approaches to filling the holes.

Occasionally, there are special education aides that can double as substitutes. Also, department directors may fill in when teachers are out. The most likely and ideal solution is to have other teachers from the same department act as substitutes. On days when teachers have two preparation periods, they

could potentially be tapped to fill in. The administration is still sorting out the logistics of this program.

If there is no available staff member to cover the class, the students will be sent to the commons as if they were in a study. This will try to be avoided, but sometimes it will be the only option.

Because of these substitute restrictions, there are now some limitations on when teachers can leave school. Teachers are no longer allowed to take any classes on field trips unless they are taking all of their students or they get another teacher in their department to cover their classes that are left behind. Also, teachers cannot take staff development days unless money for a substitute is incorporated in the grant.

The two remaining substitutes are Mr. Teggart and Mrs. Ambach.

Although this substitute cut was a district-wide implementation, it is less of a problem at the other schools in Shrewsbury. The middle schools and elementary schools have far more long-term aides that can fill in as substitutes.

Next year the substitute situation should return to normal, according to Mr. Largess. However this certainly will not mean the end of Shrewsbury's budget problems.

School Committee Chair Peeples To Run For Selectman



Jason Palitsch
Editorials Editor

On Monday, January 11th, Shrewsbury School Committee Chair Deborah Peeples took out the necessary paperwork to launch her bid for selectman. Ms. Peeples, a longtime Shrewsbury resident who has served on the School Committee since 1993, made her intentions to be on the May 2006 town ballot clear after selectman Phil Hammond announced that he would not be seeking re-election. Town Finance Committee Member James McCaffrey recently made public the fact that he is also running for the open seat.

McCaffrey's candidacy did not deter Ms. Peeples, who has been elected to her current position by Shrewsbury voters five times. While on the school committee, Ms. Peeples has been involved in large-scale projects, including planning for the construction of Floral Street Elementary School and the new high school, and has seen the Shrewsbury school system excel in comparison to districts around the state. More recently, however, her tenure on the school committee has been defined through her efforts at Town Hall to manage the school system's finances; just recently, the school committee under Ms. Peeples balanced the town's education budget for the first time in several fiscal years. The struggle was a difficult one though: courses had to be cut, a bussing fee was mandated, and the system had to eliminate all but two of the town's substitute teacher positions. All of this was exacerbated last May, when Shrewsbury voters overwhelmingly rejected a Proposition 2-1/2 Override, which would have permitted the town to

raise property taxes to provide greater funding for the schools.

Ms. Peeples' work with the school committee- through good times and hardships- have earned her notable respect with certain members of the community. SHS Junior Rachel Savageau, who serves as Secretary of the Young Democrats of SHS, remarked, "She's always been on the side of educational investment when needed," in reference to Ms. Peeples' support of the Proposition 2-1/2 Override, which the Young Democrats publicly supported. Savageau remarked that, though a formal endorsement vote is still pending, that group - one of several politically active SHS student organizations - supports Peeples and will likely become involved in her campaign.

McCaffrey's likely strength lies in his work on the Finance Committee. Convincing voters that he is the candidate to balance the books could benefit his candidacy.



Deborah Peeples, above, served as Chair of the School Committee prior to running for Selectman.

Also on the local election radar is an open School Committee seat, being vacated by Kristina Palomba. Town Meeting member Marian Smith has announced her intention to run for the seat, as has Shrewsbury resident James Martin.

End in Sight for U.S. Forces in Iraq



Chris Cerrone
Editor-in-Chief

After almost three years of insurgency struggles and rebuilding woes, the United States finally appears to have the end in sight for the reconstruction of Iraq. The Bush Administration has indicated that it does not intend to seek any new funds for the reconstruction efforts in Iraq when the budget requests go before Congress in February. This decision indicates that the Bush Administration is winding down its \$18.6 billion effort to rebuild the war torn Iraqi nation and may perhaps allude to an approaching withdrawal of American forces from the country.

The United States has faced relatively consistent and significant resistance from the Iraqi insurgency since American troops invaded the country three years ago. Curbing this insurgency, which has been more significant than American war planners had originally anticipated prior to the invasion, has required a significant portion of the reconstruction fund. Originally, it was planned that this



The United States, after almost four years in Iraq, has indicated that an end is in sight for American forces stationed in the war torn nation.

\$18.6 billion would be allocated to the reconstruction of Iraq's decrepit electrical, education, water, sewage, sanitation and oil networks, and to build new security forces for Iraq. Since the rebuilding effort began, however, almost \$2.5 billion of this money has been diverted to fighting the insurgency and to construct a nationwide system of maximum security prisons and detention centers that meet international standards, according to reconstruction officials and documents. Additionally, the office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction has stated that about 25 percent of the funding for every nonmilitary rebuilding project is going

towards security against the insurgency.

Since the rebuilding efforts began, the United States has been forced to double the size of the Iraqi military, originally planned to be comprised of only 40,000 troops. However, the consistent insurgency forced the reallocation of reconstruction funding to build the military to 80,000 troops in addition to the creation of a 300-man Iraqi hostage-rescue force that authorities say stages operations almost every night in Baghdad, a 600-man force of Iraqis specializing in bomb prevention, and four battalions of Iraqi special forces designated to protect the Iraqi oil fields and electrical networks from attacks.

There are approximately 3,600 projects that American and Iraqi reconstruction forces are working to finish before the \$18.6 billion runs out at the end of 2006. Included in these projects are 900 schools, construction of nearly 160 hospitals and health care clinics, and repairs to almost 800 miles of highways and roads stretching throughout the country. Unfortunately, due to the slow progress described by Col. Bjarne Iverson, commander of the reconstruction operations center, "For every three steps forward, we take one step back," almost 60 percent of Iraqis are unaware that any reconstruction is underway at all. In fact, the oil and electrical output of Iraq are lower than prewar levels, as the electrical network has an output of about 13 percent and the oil output 23 percent lower than they was prior to the war.

Many authorities, both Iraqi and American, assure that progress is being made and that the impacts of the reconstruction projects will soon be felt by all Iraqis. Dan Speckhard, the director of the U.S. reconstruction management office in Iraq, stated that, "The good news is this investment is not in any way lost; they're there. They will pay off, they will be felt, if not this month, then six months down the road."

THE COLONIAL INSIDER

WHERE WE ASK OURSELVES EVERYDAY:
DOES ANYONE ACTUALLY READ THIS?

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EDITORS' NOTES

Hey everyone -

Because of the budget crisis, you're now looking at us online thanks to the gracious cooperation from our tech department... although it would have been nice to have your Valentine's Day wishes printed out to laugh with friends in school. Sorry about that - there's really nothing we can do.

We would however appreciate anyone being a
Friend of the Town Crier!

If you're interested, let any of us know in the B300 computer lab during 6th period, or find any of the people on the list to the left. Ahh... desperation. Our goal is to have our last issue of the year back on paper.

On a brighter note, February vacation is just around the corner, seniors being accepted by colleges and second semester is here with a fresh start and in journalism, with a fresh new teacher Ms. Waligora. Mrs. Blackburn is doing well with her new baby, and luckily not commuting through the new foot of snow.

Good luck with the new semester and any New Year's resolutions that haven't failed yet!!

Thanks for reading!

Sarah Cicuto & Chris Cerrone



NEWS

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Coretta Scott King, who died recently, attempted to continue on the legacy of her husband Martin Luther King Jr., pictured in the background.

Pennsylvania Says No to Intelligent Design



Aparna Garg
Student Affairs Editor

Darwin lovers celebrated on Tuesday December 20, 2005, when U.S. District Judge John E. Jones denounced the Dover Area School Board, saying that the introduction of intelligent design into the school system violates separation of church and state.

The theory of intelligent design, also known ID, states that living organisms are so complex that a higher force must have created them. Recently, pro-ID forces have been urging school science departments to teach intelligent design as an alternative to evolution. Anti-ID forces have determinedly refused to teach "a theory for which there is no scientific evidence."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, summarized the dispute between ID and pro-evolution forces. "It was an effort to include intelligent design and treat

it as science, disparaging evolution along the way. That will not stand."

This dispute was one of the biggest courtroom clashes between faith and evolution since the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial. In the Dover school district, intelligent-design supporters were ousted in November's school board elections and replaced with a new slate opposed to the policy. The policy required students to hear a statement about intelligent design before ninth-grade evolution lessons. The statement said Darwin's theory is "not a fact" and has inexplicable "gaps."

The new school board president, Bernadette Reinking, said the board wants to place intelligent design in an elective social studies class instead. But the judge suspected ulterior religious motives behind the board's actions. "We find that the secular purposes claimed by the board amount to a pretext for the board's real purpose, which was to promote religion in the public school classroom."

The decision could impact school systems across the country. A group of angered ID-proponents in Seattle has said before that the hostile treatment of leading academics in the intelligent design movement demonstrate how dangerous it is for researchers to oppose the scientific establishment.

Coretta Scott King Dies at Age 78



Jenn Smith
Staff Writer

Coretta Scott King, a widow of American civil rights icon Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died Monday, January 30. She was 78 years old. After suffering a stroke and heart attack last August, Mrs. King made a surprise appearance at a January 4th event to honor her late husband. The King family matriarch joined two of her four children, Dexter and Yolanda King, who served as emcees for the annual Salute to Greatness dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia.

Born and raised in Marion, Georgia, Scott received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch Yellow Springs College, Ohio, and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston she met Martin Luther King, who was studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University.

Coretta and Martin were married on June 18, 1953, and in September, 1954, took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, with Coretta picking up the

many functions of being a pastor's wife at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King devoted most of her time to raising four children: Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine.

In 1957, Mr. And Mrs. King traveled to Ghana to celebrate the country's independence. A year later they spent a belated honeymoon in Mexico and observed firsthand the immense gulf between extreme wealth and extreme poverty. And, in 1964, she accompanied him to Oslo, Norway, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Mrs. King functioned as liaison to peace and justice organizations and as a mediator to public offices on behalf of the unheard.

For nearly four decades, Coretta King remained a dynamic figure in the struggle for civil rights. Aside from raising four children as a single mother, Mr. King made hundreds of speeches, led marches, raised funds and met with human rights and political leaders around the world.

Through it all, Mrs. King kept alive the memory of her husband, and in a personal touch, the red carnations her husband sent her in March 1968, which she kept safely in her home on Sunset Avenue in Atlanta. Along with her husband and other strong civil rights icons, Coretta Scott King will be remembered forever for her many contributions to the movement.

Bill to Buckle Down On Teen Drivers



Anne McCarthy
Arts & Entertainment Editor

During a community forum held on October 26, 2005 in the Presentation Room at Shrewsbury High School, many local and state officials gathered to discuss problems and propose solutions regarding Shrewsbury's youth. While a number of topics were brought up, the most momentous issue discussed during the forum was that of teen driving. Among those attending the forum were Police Chief Sampson, State Representative Karyn Polito, and the High School's assistant principal, Mr. Largess.

With the recent passing of Melanie's Bill, past court records can now be used to convict repeat drunk drivers while the prison sentence for those convicted of motor vehicle manslaughter will be increased from two-and-a-half to five years. It is clear that the public is ready to take action to reduce the soaring number of deaths that occur everyday as a result of car accidents.

House Bill 1996, "An Act Relative to Junior Operators", had a public hearing on October 20th and is currently in the Joint Committee on Transportation. This bill would make all stages in the process of obtaining a driving permit and license more difficult. Also, it would crack down on drivers with Junior Operator's Licenses. Instead of having to pass a mere twenty-question test to obtain a permit, the test would be a more rigorous and thorough evaluation of a new driver's skill before they will be permitted to get behind the wheel. Presently, 12 hours of parent-supervised driving time are required before getting a license. This bill would

increase that number to 30 hours, which would be recorded, initiated and signed as a prerequisite for receiving a license. The number of professionally supervised hours behind the wheel would also be upped from 6 hours to 12 hours.

This bill entails extending the Junior Operator license period to one year. It is currently 6 months. That would mean that if one obtained their driver's license 6 months after having obtained their permit, they would not be legally allowed to drive passengers other than family members for one year. An offense would involve a license suspension for 30-90 days. A second offense would be from 60-180 days and a third offense would carry a license suspension of 90 days to 1 year. The consequences for speeding will also be a suspended license for a period of time.

Perhaps one of the most controversial changes would institute a \$100 fine for those caught using a hand cell phone while driving. This restriction on cell phone use would apply only to Junior Operators, and the fine would increase with each violation up to \$500. Karyn Polito supports the changes that this bill would institute, commenting that, "Often the exuberance of that accompanies [a new driver's] newly expanded freedom clouds the sound judgment required to operate a vehicle. It is imperative that we encourage junior operators to focus on both their commitment to personal safety and the impact their driving can have on the lives of their friends and neighbors."

At Shrewsbury High School, administrators have made an effort to strictly enforce driving rules and encourage safe driving. Students who are seen or reported as driving unsafely or speeding have had their school driving privileges suspended. While driving restrictions and fines hit teens where it hurts- by making a dent in their freedom in their wallets, these improvement will hurt less than the pain of losing a loved one to a car accident.

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Christmas Celebrated on Wrong Date for Two Thousand Years



Chris Cerrone
Editor-in-Chief

Each year as December 25th approaches, everything begins to look a lot like Christmas. Snow has usually fallen, people are entombing themselves in layers of winter clothing, and Santa statues and bright lights illuminate neighborhoods nationwide. But, is it possible that these sure signs of Christmas' approach are nothing more than a two thousand year misunderstanding? Would it turn our worlds around if Christmas really wasn't supposed to be celebrated on December 25th, but instead, say, during the summer sometime? Fortunately, it's obvious that the answer to this speculation is no. Nonetheless, here's the truth about Christmas.

Christmas has become almost as much of a cultural holiday in the United States as it has traditionally been a religious one. Interpretations and celebrations of the holiday have manifested themselves somewhat from a Christian day of remembrance to a cross-cultural celebration of family, with festivities most notably including gifts and parties. Yet, the nativity scenes displayed on church lawns, the angels atop our Christmas trees, and Christmas carols of Christian religious stories all serve to remind us that Christmas is, before and after all, the celebration of Jesus' birthday: a holiday with religious connotation through and through. Here, however, is where the greatest Christmas mistake lies.

Despite the fact that Christmas is universally celebrated on December 25th, Biblical scholars worldwide have come to the general consensus that Jesus was not born in late December, but instead during a warmer season when shepherds would have been more likely to be grazing their flocks of sheep. It wasn't until the adoption of Christianity by the Roman Empire that Christmas was even celebrated, and it was then that Pope Julius I chose the date of Dec. 25 in order for the holiday to coincide with the ancient festival of Saturnalia. The Pope's goal behind this was to make the holiday as popular and widely celebrated as possible, not to recognize the actual birthday of Jesus. Therefore, it seems that Christmas is actually more of a continuation of a Roman winter holiday festival than it is a religious date, as Saturnalia both preceded and was appropriated by Pope Julius' religious component.

"Who Wants to Die?"



Alyssa L'Bassi
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

Elmo, one of the most beloved characters on the classic children's show *Sesame Street*, produces millions of dollars worth of merchandise. His latest product, the interactive book *Potty Time with Elmo*, is supposed to teach children the importance of potty training with voice commands. Angela Bolls in Dallas purchased the book for her 16-month-old daughter, horrified to hear the phrase "Who wants to die?" when she pushed one of the buttons.

"It's a sick joke. If it's a joke then it's a bad one, you know? And it's not necessary. It's inappropriate," stated Bolls. However, when Bolls tested another copy of the children's book, the voice said, "Who wants to try to go potty?"

The publisher received many complaints about the Elmo book and released a statement this past January 27th: "The track was recorded as 'Uh oh, who has to go' and due to the compression of the digital audio file, some consumers hear a different phrase... We are absolutely certain that the audio file was not tampered with...."

It could be reasoned that the mother in Dallas probably mistook the muffled voice recording as "Who wants to die?" When listening to the sample audio, provided on news station websites, I clearly heard "Who has to go," but then again, if you tell yourself and are expecting to hear "Who wants to die," then it can sound similar to that as well. Whether or not Elmo really has a death wish for the children of America remains to be seen, though it is most likely just a mother's imagination.



Elmo has become quite a commotion for the family

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Driving With Alcohol Becomes Popular again in Brazil



Jorge Tercilla
News Editor

While most of the countries, including the U.S., have been in a grueling battle figuring out new solutions to solve resource problems for energy, Brazil has taken a bold new route to this fiasco: alcohol powered cars. Denominated as "flex-fuel cars", these cars can be powered by any mixture of ethanol and petrol. The most surprising aspect of all of it is that these cars have been manufactured since 1985. Throughout the course of these



Brazil's innovative idea could perhaps be adopted by other countries

20 years, the cars have only had little popularity because of the low prices of oil; but this year with oil price spikes, car sales have increased exponentially.

Brazil began this Pro-Alcohol Program early in the mid 80's and planned to use the country's vast reserves of sugar cane and grain as the energy source for the system. It was turned down at first because of discoveries of oilfields off the coast during the early 90's. After 2001 though, manufacturing was increased and sales saw over 328,000 "flex-fuel cars" sold in 2004 and a whopping 866,267 in 2005. Also, the government has been promoting them and making them more affordable than your average gas powered car. They only face a 14% sales tax versus the 16% and other fees that gas cars face. All in all, this shows proof to how close we really are from discovery better and more efficient energy sources to replace oil in the following decades.

Editorials & Opinions

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Town Crier

The Right Plan at the Right Time



Cissy Huang
Editorials Editor

Mid-November, House Democrats unveiled a plan titled, "The Innovation Agenda: A Commitment to Competitiveness to Keep America #1" which proposes to: *Create an educated, skilled workforce in the vital areas of science, math, engineering, and information technology; Invest in a sustained federal research and development initiative that promotes public-private partnerships; Guarantee affordable access to broadband technology for all Americans; Achieve energy independence in 10 years by developing emerging technologies for clean and sustainable alternatives that will strengthen national security and protect the environment; and, Provide small businesses with the tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation and job creation.*

This is exactly what America needs to prevent its slow but sure slide into mediocrity. With the War on Terror and our prolonged engagement in Iraq, the status of our domestic and economic institutions has been neglected.

The initiatives for education come precisely at a time when all indicators point to American students falling behind their international counterparts. Investing in teachers and the creation of a skilled and educated workforce are the actions needed to combat outsourcing and off shoring, not protectionist policies that hinder free trade.

Funding for scientific research needs to be reinvigorated. Countries in Eastern Asia are fast replacing the United States as the world's foremost innovators. South Korea's development and progress in cloning and stem cell research has been astounding. If America does not get its act together, it will be left in the dust.

It is embarrassing to note that the United States of America only ranks 11th worldwide in broadband penetration. With all of our alleged prosperity and technological development, we cannot yet offer fast and reliable Internet access to all and connectivity has been shown to have a direct link to commercial productivity.

Moreover, the energy proposals of the Innovation Agenda will help end the dependence on and support of oil-producing nations with terrorist ties. Promotion of alternative fuels will also help decrease the volume of carbon gas emissions into the atmosphere so we can do our part in slowing global warming.

Finally, at a time when major corporations in the United States are falling under the taint of corporate corruption or finding themselves unable to provide for the healthcare or pensions of their employees, the Democrats' encouragement of small business will bring forth a new wave of economic growth for this country.

This columnist salutes the Democratic Party for their bright vision of America's possible future and hopes Congress can bring itself together to keep America #1. President Bush himself echoed some of these proposals in his State of the Union address on January 31st.



Hamas' victory in the Palestinian parliamentary elections may spell doom for peace in the Middle East.

Hamas: Allies or Terrorists?



Chris Cerrone
Editor-in-Chief

The Hamas Charter features a call for Islam to "obliterate" Israel, dismisses the possibility of any negotiation on the subject, and says that no part of historic Palestine can ever be conceded to create the Israeli state. This Palestinian political and militant organization blames the Jewish for the French Revolution, the communist revolution in China, and both the first and second world wars. Hamas also stood opposed to the Oslo Accords, a set of negotiations between Palestine and Israel that attempted to reconcile their differences and settle on a two-state solution, and has spent the better part of the last couple of decades conducting suicide bombings against innocent Israeli civilians. It comes as no surprise then, as Israel is a prominent ally of the Western world, that the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations all consider Hamas to be a terrorist organization, and in light of their recent surprise victory in the Palestinian parliamentary elections, are on the verge of shutting off all aid to Palestine. Is this the right thing to do? Can the Western world disenfranchise the Palestinian people because of their politics?

There's the key. Whether the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations decide to cut the money flow to Palestine or not, more than anything else, they would be plugging aid that goes directly to the Palestinian people, not to the Hamas terrorist leaders. Even with their unabated calls for the destruction of Israel and their refusal to disarm, a more moderate side of Hamas was seen leading up to and now after the election, including a pledge from the organization's leadership asking for a continuation of aid from the west and promising that any aid would be directly beneficial to the people and would be supervised by the western supplier. Many optimists are stipulating now that Hamas has become part of the normal democratic government process, they will be held to the same accountability standards of a normal political organization, and thus will be forced to adopt a more moderate stance in order to sustain enough support to remain in power. Instead of being concerned about Hamas' new role,

observers should actually welcome it as the most likely catalyst for moving the group's focus from radical militarism to mainstream politics. Furthermore, the majority of Palestinians legitimately supports Hamas as a political group and hope that it can avoid the corruption and inactivity that plagued the previous ruling party, Fatah, under both Yassar Arafat and most recently Muhammad Abbas. Would it make sense for the Western world to ostracize a nation and its people after they have conducted a democratic election, especially as the West continuously stands in favor of such elections?

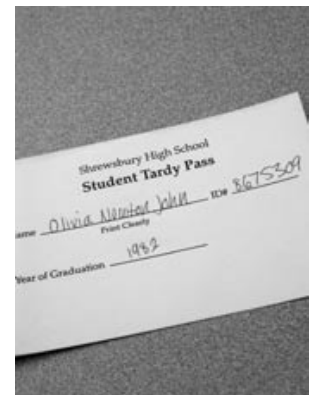
No, it doesn't. Unfortunately, the issue is much more complicated, making it impossible for the Western world to accept Hamas as the leading political organization in Palestine as it currently stands. Israel and the United States have formed an especially close political and military alliance since Israel's creation, while the rest of the Western world considers Israel to be a powerful and legitimate nation that has a solid and favorable record with human rights and democracy. Therefore, as President Bush made very clear, the United States cannot possible support a nation led by a political party that holds the destruction of our ally and friend at the top of their agenda. Hamas has been the strongest militant organization fighting against Israel for the past decades, and that's something that can't be overlooked. As long as Hamas refuses to open negotiations for a two-state solution or allow for the resumption of peace talks, most notably by removing the call for Israel's destruction from their platform and by disarming their militant wing, the Western world really has no option but to cut off any and all aid going to that nation. This is not a cut and dry situation, and is certainly not anything anyone expected to have to deal with when Palestinian President Abbas decided to hold parliamentary elections for the first time in nearly a decade. Now that the situation is at hand, however, it demands sensitivity and western cooperation. As it stands now, however, all indications show that the ball is in Hamas' court.

Necessity or Nuisance?



Cara Howe
Features Editor

Over the course of my four years at Shrewsbury High School, there is one concept that I have never fully understood – those small yellow pieces of paper that admit you into class after the bell, as if they were a key to allow you through a special porthole – also known as tardy slips. I never understood exactly why students need them. One morning, as I was entering the school at 7:22 am, I briskly made my way through the Commons and climbed the stairs, determined to make it to first period on time. As I rounded the B300s hallway, I heard the dreadful chiming of the bells. I was too late. There was no way I could possibly have made it to B318 and slipped in without a pass. I made my way toward the attendance office; cursing those stupid yellow slips the whole time. Now instead of being thirty seconds late, I would be five minutes late and have no seat in class, and since I had a test, I would lose five minutes on my test. Sweet. I rapidly made my way to the attendance office (or as rapidly as one can at 7:25) only to find a long line of sluggish classmates filling out the same pointless pass. I shoved my way to the front where the box of passes is and scribbled in something as quickly as possible, shoved it into the time stamper, threw the slip somewhere on the counter and raced back up to my first period class in order to begin my test. It was then 7:30 and I had wasted five minutes of class on obtaining a small piece of paper that in no way changes the fact that I'm late. Whether I have a pass or not, I will still be marked late. So what exactly is the purpose of the pass? Either way, the attendance office would still know that I entered first period late because of the PowerSchool Attendance Program. If the exact time that I enter school is that critical, then create a new attendance sheet that includes a time when the student enters. It would save the student the hassle of obtaining a pass and wasting class time. Perhaps by saving the paper for tardy slips, white lined paper would now be available in all classrooms.



The dreaded tardy pass.

Editorials & Opinions

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Town Crier

CIVIL DISCOURSE

with Cissy Huang and Jason Palitsch

This issue: Thoughts on Governor Mitt Romney's decision not to seek re-election in 2006

Good Riddance, Mitt



Jason Palitsch
Editorials Editor

Let me begin by saying that, above most else, I love our great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. My lifelong home state has consistently led the nation in terms of education, healthcare, and innovation. Also, it is America's foremost liberal bastion that is not an urban city. Rarely- very, very rarely- will I ever concede that Massachusetts got anything wrong. I tell you this to heighten the value of the observations and feelings I am about to express.

On November 5th, 2002, Massachusetts got it wrong. 1,000,000 voters got it very, very wrong. To be fair, it wasn't our fault necessarily. Mitt Romney was elected Governor that day, receiving 50% of the vote to 45% for state Treasurer Shannon O'Brien, a Democrat. Mitt had to overcome being a conservative Republican in the most liberal state in the Union, and to do so took an advertising campaign and an image job which cost in the ballpark of \$8 million. Mitt painted himself as the businessman-reformer-not tied to corruption. Two particularly annoying campaign commercials come to mind: the one of he and Ann discussing their relationship ("we met when he was a senior and I was a sophomore") and playing up the happy-normal-family theme (to shame O'Brien, whose husband was a lobbyist and whose father a career politician). The other one is of him as a garbage man, cleverly "cleaning up the mess on Beacon Hill." Poor Shannon, with years of experience in state government and a long record of solving problems at the Treasury, was outspent and outmaneuvered. Mitt's ad buy worked, and on Election Day Massachusetts voters forgot to hallmark rule of politicians. The rule we learned from Bill Weld, Carol Moseley Braun, and countless others: when a politician is true good to be true, they usually are loaded with shortcomings. Thus was the case with Mitt.

"the Governorship of Massachusetts and the Republican Presidential Ticket simply are not compatible goals"

Romney has used his office as a pulpit to be the 2008 Republican Nominee for President since assuming office in January 2003. Though it is common in politics for politicians to win office solely for the purpose of seeking another (i.e. Senator Clinton), the Governorship of Massachusetts and the Republican Presidential Ticket simply are not compatible goals. Mitt at first strayed from being too conservative, and instead touted words such as 'reform' and 'tax cut' while never really pushing for either. The Legislature reigned in the budget and gay marriage was out of his hands; Mitt found himself not actually doing much at all. Then the 2004 Presidential cycle kicked off, and Mitt let his true colors show. He endorsed the conservative mantra and, as the elections drew to a close, began making trips around the nation- many on the state's time and dime- to shore up money and support for a 2008 Presidential bid. Eventually, it became clear that he was not maneuvering to be re-elected (polls showed him slumping behind Democratic Attorney General Tom Reilly) but instead working to clear the 2006 field for his less-than-stellar second in command, the inept and useless Karen Murphy Healy, wealthy denizen of the Beverly Farms Gated Community-turned Lieutenant Governor (selected because she was a woman). This became apparent late last summer during the partial birth abortion debate at the statehouse. Governor Romney, who had tried to convince voters in the commonwealth he was pro-choice, vetoed a bill mandating that hospitals provide emergency contraceptives to rape victims, mostly so Kerry Healy could publicly differ from him to make her look strong. What was more pathetic cannot be determined, that such a maneuver had to be done or that the press reported it as a maneuver. Ms. Healy, however, sorely needed it.

So thus begins and ends the tumultuous term of Mitt Romney. The wealthy self-financier buys an image and promises reform, is elected and ignores reform, ignores the state and its struggling economy, abandons the state to run for President, and sets the wheels in motion for the Republicans to nominate the most useless person for Governor since the Helicopter Lady (less commonly remembered as Jane Maria Swift). Hallelujah, folks, Mitt's going to Washington and he's not coming back. He's left the state GOP with an almost complete inability to hold onto the corner office he have occupied since 1991, with Healy squaring off with popular Attorney General Reilly and his \$4 million early campaign fund. Finally, Mitt, we can do as you wanted: we can clean up the mess on Beacon Hill.

Blue Romney



Cissy Huang
Editorials Editor

Even before Mitt Romney announced he would not be seeking re-election in December of 2005, there was widespread speculation as to his ambitions for the 2008 Presidential election. His frequent visits to states of electoral importance such as Iowa and New Hampshire only added to those suspicions. Now that Romney is officially out of the 2006 Massachusetts gubernatorial race, it is time to review his single term as Governor of Massachusetts and, perhaps more critical to the future, how his four years here will reflect on his expected bid for the White House.

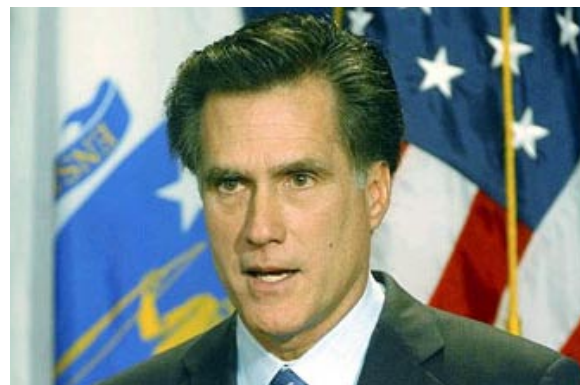
At the press conference announcing he would not be seeking re-election, Gov. Romney said, "My decision comes down to this: In this four-year term, we can accomplish what I set out to do. In fact, we've already accomplished a great deal..." Among those accomplishments: giving \$250 million in tax refunds, fixing a \$3 billion budget deficit without increasing taxes, adding 35,000 new jobs, having students first in math and science in the nation, and preparing to offer health insurance to all uninsured.

These deeds as governor are all good and well for enumeration on the campaign stump, but the political contortions Romney has made on the way to his possible run for President may not go over very well. Certainly, the disparaging comments he has made during his travels regarding Massachusetts have not been warmly received by his constituents. Romney is now obviously trying to distance himself from the bluest of blue states so that he can make himself over into a conservative he hopes Red America can embrace.

In the process of this makeover, Mitt has revealed himself to be a political chameleon, a man of changing and mollifying stances, particularly on abortion. As The Boston Globe notes, "However he tries to position himself now, each time Romney sought office in Massachusetts, he went to great lengths to express support for abortion rights. When he ran unsuccessfully for US Senate in 1994, he pledged to keep abortion 'safe and legal in this country.' When he ran for governor in 2002, he said he supported Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, and promised not to change the state's abortion policies." Yet Mitt has consistently asked not to be labeled "pro-choice" and even more bizarre, has been connected to both pro-life and pro-choice advocacy groups. If he wants to win the hearts of conservative America, he's going to have to do a lot better than that.

Mitt Romney said one thing to Massachusetts' voters in 2002, is changing his tune to the nation in 2006, and by the time 2008 rolls around he may have completed a complete 180. However, his recent veto of emergency contraception and his stance against gay marriage will not help him out in the Republican primaries when his rivals point out he supported RU-486 and abortion to conservative voters who are staunchly against both. And if he does make it onto the ticket, Democrats may turn the tables and attack Mitt's "waffling" on key issues.

Although The American Spectator, a conservative journal, believes Mitt Romney is just "holding back" his conservatism, no matter how hard he's trying to be red, Mitt Romney may have gone too far into the blue.



Mitt's just not that popular with either ideological bloc these days.

Editorials & Opinions

Issue 3

February 2006

myPod



Nick Novotny
Staff Writer

Let's get this out of the way for the few people (if any) that have been living under a rock for the past few years, the iPod has taken the world by storm. It's a small musical device that can hold your music, photos, and now even video. While many devices have copied the iPod (some being made much better and cheaper) it is most certainly the most popular and widely known mp3 player of the bunch. People can walk around with their whole CD collection in their pocket. Everything seems fine and dandy right? While I have recently bought one myself and I think it's fantastic, I can't help but say that there are still just some things that bother me about them. I'm sorry for most of you that have to hear me rant on, or for any iPod cult fanatic, but for those who agree, power to you.

Right, I'm finally ready to cave in and put the hundreds of CD's I have into one small device. (What device? Well the iPod of course, what other device would I think of?) Now if you were intending on buying an iPod soon and you plan on going to college, then wait, just wait. Trust me, you may look at me funny, but for people tight on money, this may interest you. One nice perk about getting into college are the discounts. Apple and Dell both do discounts on computers, but the nice thing is that Apple also includes this deal on their iPod. While it isn't a whole lot, it helps. Having bought the 30gb (gigabyte) Video iPod, I saved 30 bucks. Usually retailing at \$300, I found it on Apple's site for \$270. These discounts also work for the Nano and the Shuffle.

While were at it, let's just talk about prices. Probably my biggest grip about the music player is Apple's way of selling its product. While being really smart business wise, it most certainly stinks for any buyer. Let's take for example, the iPod mini. This device ran for \$200 and is now replaced by a new iPod called the iPod Nano. Logically you would be happy and think you could now buy an iPod Mini for less at the store. Wrong. Instead, the Nano takes on the \$200 price tag and the Minis just go right off the shelf. One other question I ask myself is why are people buying the Nano. It's great that it's small but it's only two gigabytes! That's about 500 songs. The most common answer is that people will say, oh, well I don't listen to much music. Hey guess what, you're in high school, I'm sure in a few more years it will fill up. What makes me more puzzled is that if you're going to spend \$200, why not dish out the extra \$100 for 28 more gigabytes. That and the fact you get video with it. With the iPod Video you're paying \$10 for every gigabyte (30gb). Depending on the Nano you choose, you could be paying \$50, to \$100 per a gigabyte. I guess I'm just surprised that this trend has still continued with Apple.

The last grip that I'm sure every iPod owner deals with are the scratches. My iPod is just asking to be scratched; I hate having to treat it so preciously when I carry it around. While it is true that the case helps, you need to make sure you get a good one. I have read many complaints from people online that their case actually scratches their iPod. While cases are pretty expensive, it's worth protecting your investment. So while I dance around to my new hip iPod, I'm sure there are kids still waiting for the next best thing. With new iPods coming out almost every year, it won't be long until I'm left with an outdated music player.

"Give us your tired, your poor.."



Miranda Jonsword
Features Editor

Often times, viewpoints on immigrants are a subject matter than breed controversy among people living in America. Some feel that it is frustrating that "native-born" Americans work so hard to succeed in school, try to get into AP classes, try to get a scholarship, and strive to be a well-rounded student. Yet immigrants can get into college with a scholarship because of their minority status and colleges' search for diversity.

This statement sheds some truth and some logical fallacies. Fact: Colleges desire diversity on all levels and the only way to accomplish a diverse atmosphere is to bring in as many ethnicities as possible. However, the statement leads listeners to believe that where an American may work diligently to get into a decent college, an immigrant does not need to work as hard to get into that same college. It is true that an immigrant may have an advantage due to his or her status as a minority, but who is to say that the immigrant is less qualified? Some say that "Americans work so hard," but does that necessarily mean that immigrants don't also? I am not saying that all immigrants work harder than Americans. I am saying

that one is jumping to conclusions by simply comparing levels of intelligence versus ethnicity as being the determining factor of one's college acceptance.

Other points that were brought up were jobs and languages. Do immigrants take Americans' jobs, too? Not necessarily. It is more a matter of willingness to fulfill the duty of a particular job. Immigrants come to America in hopes of a new life and new opportunities, but they are also aware that whatever dream they possess, hard work is required. Many immigrants are more willing to work the dirty, low-paying jobs that America has to offer. Americans generally take America, the "land of freedom," for granted, having grown-up with their liberties. Thus, it is not unusual for a native-born American to reject a job because it is "below him/her." So who ends up taking it? Most likely, the immigrants.

About having immigrants come into the country not knowing English one thing must be noted: English is one of the most difficult languages to learn. For most of us in this school, we grew up knowing the basics down to the nit-picky grammatical rules of the English language without realizing it. Most immigrants who have not had the opportunity to learn

Senioritis



Derek Leab
Sports Editor

Lets be honest, we will all eventually come in contact with the sickness known as "Senioritis" at some point in our graduating year. Your focus will be challenged as the year progresses, and your attention span will begin to fall off. A "Senior slump" is very common amongst high school seniors across the United States, and the Department of Education is investigating ways to fight this dreadful condition. Many people are becoming aware that seniors are focusing on partying, rather than college and their future. At the time, this strategy may seem fulfilling, but the consequences are harsh. Almost one-third of students starting college require remedial help, and college can revoke your admission and/or scholarships at any point. Students also tend to load their schedule up with studies and easy courses, when they really should be challenging themselves so there won't be a letdown their freshman year in college. It's fairly easy to figure out what is wrong with senior year and why there is a letdown, but the big debate is how to fix senior year. Bard College President Leon Botstein believes that senior year is a waste, and students are better off ending school early. Botstein states, "The high school system was designed for large children, now it faces young adults. It doesn't treat them seriously, doesn't give them responsibility". He goes on to say, "My solution: End high school early. Complete it at 16 and integrate the students into the adult world." While Botstein's opinion seems legitimate, it's hard to envision the government getting rid of the four-year plan that seems set in stone. With that being said, don't drift through your senior year in a daze; the work you do your senior year will help make the college transition a smooth one. Enjoy your senior year, and balance your schoolwork and your partying.

English only have the option of immersing themselves in an English-speaking world. Thus, many Americans are often quick to judge one's intelligence based on how they speak regardless of his or her efforts to learn the language. Some of you may have already ventured out to other countries, and had not known a single word of the language spoken there. Does that make you any less worthy of being there? Like some immigrants, you may be a little out of touch at first, but with time and determination you will find yourself speaking more fluently. Immigrants in this country should be given the same dignity.

The main point being made is that there is a reason why the Statue of Liberty stands tall with a warm and welcoming torch. Americans need to treat newcomers with the same respect the Statue of Liberty does for them. After all, our families were once immigrants as well.

Helicopter Lady II



Jason Palitsch
Editorials Editor

Over the course of five days leading from January into February, the Massachusetts Democratic Party was awash in humiliation and disappointment.

Attorney General Tom Reilly, who is widely viewed as the frontrunner in the Democratic race for Governor, had been on the verge of choosing 2002 Lt. Governor candidate Chris Gabrieli as his running mate; a formal announcement had been scheduled for Monday. However, at the last moment, Reilly abandoned Gabrieli in favor of state Representative Marie St. Fleur of Dorchester. On Monday, their union was announced with great fanfare only to collapse 27 hours later, when St. Fleur dropped out of the race after it became clear that she had severe tax problems. Worcester Mayor Timothy Murray, a candidate for Lt. Governor, and some of his supporters (including 3rd District U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern) slammed Reilly for what they viewed as a careless maneuver that snubbed central Massachusetts. Gubernatorial candidate Deval Patrick eclipsed Reilly in the caucus delegate war- which is tantamount to a party convention endorsement- meaning Reilly will have to fall back on a \$4.2 million campaign account to win the television airwaves battle this summer to clear the primary. There has even been talk that 2002 nominee Shannon O'Brien could enter the race.

What makes this so sadistically pleasant for some die-hard Democrats, however, is that fact that, despite the mountain of new problems for the state party, the GOP still doesn't stand a chance.

Lt. Governor Kerry Healy, the likely Republican nominee for Governor, stands no realistic chance of benefiting from the St. Fleur controversy. First and foremost, serious questions have been raised over her husband's alleged questionable tax practices. Were any weight to be thrown behind those charges, they would likely be more damaging for the GOP than St. Fleur than St. Fleur was for the Democrats. While St. Fleur could not afford to pay her taxes on time, Healy is fabulously wealthy.

The controversy in the race for Lt. Governor, and the inter-party squabbling that resulted, also is not something Healy can capitalize on. Though Reilly's all-too public search for a running mate, the all-too public failure of that search, and the anger it sparked in some of the other candidates were serious setbacks for the Democrats, those incidents also called attention to Kerry Healy's lack of not only a running mate, but of a bench of viable candidates to choose from.

Finally, the newly-minted primary battle to be waged right up until the primary's end by Reilly and Patrick will not benefit Healy either. Healy's conservative base will likely be eaten away at by Christy Mihos, a wealthy former Turnpike Authority member who has decided to run for Governor, likely as an independent. So while the Democrats will be embroiled in primary in-fighting until September 18th, Healy will be struggling to hold GOP ranks together right up until November 8th.

GLOBAL SPORTS



Bowl Season's Holiday Gifts



Dan Levine
Sports Editor



Similar to all other years, the college football season was ended by a great series of bowls, beginning with the New Orleans Bowl on December 20th and ending with the Rose Bowl on January 4th. From the seemingly arbitrary, boring games to the five-star blockbusters, there were many receivers of both presents and lumps of coal. After the festivities had concluded and the dust settled, the allotment of gifts was as follows:

Presents:

-United States Naval Academy (Navy)—Entering the Poinsettia Bowl as the underdogs, Navy demolished Colorado State 51-30 and ran them into the ground with their triple-option offense. Senior quarterback Lamar Owens had a great game, completing five passes for 144 yards and two touchdowns. Navy rushers had great games as well, as Reggie Campbell ran for three touchdowns and Marco Nelson scored two on the ground as well.

-James Swanson—Kansas' quarterback had a field day tearing apart the Houston defense. Swanson completed nineteen of his twenty-nine passes, ultimately throwing for 307 yards and four touchdowns in the Jayhawks' 42-13 rout of Houston.

-DeAngelo Williams—A player who was overlooked as one of the great college players this year, Williams had yet another terrific game as he helped thirty times, accumulating 233 yards and three touchdowns. This game placed Williams ahead of Tony Dorsett and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin for the most 100-yard games by a college running back. Take that, Reggie Bush.

-University of Utah—The deadly quarterback-wide receiver duo that is Brad Radliff and Travis LaTendresse connected for four touchdowns in Utah's 38-10 victory

over highly-favored Georgia Tech; senior running back Quanton Gather accounted for Utah's fifth touchdown on a 41-yard run. The Utes' victory was a great one, as Georgia Tech was nationally ranked, unlike the underdog Utah team.

-Brad Smith—The unchallenged leader of the Missouri Tigers, Smith dominated South Carolina in the Independence Bowl without contest. Among his efforts, he threw for 282 yards and one touchdown, and also ran for 150 yards, including three touchdowns. Smith ended his senior year in dramatic fashion and will be well on his way to a successful career on the next level.

-Barry Alvarez—The Wisconsin coach ended his career with a dramatic 24-10 win over Auburn in the Capital One Bowl. He coached the Badgers to 548 total yards, including 311 before halftime. Wisconsin quarterback Brian Stocco and running back Brian Calhoun had career days as the Badgers upset Auburn.

-University of Oklahoma—After being blown out by USC in the National Championship last year, Coach Bob Stoops was looking to bring his team back from losing star quarterback Jason White to the NFL. The 17th-ranked Sooners upset the sixth-ranked Oregon Ducks in the Holiday Bowl.

-West Virginia University—The freshman quarterback-running back tandem that is Pat White and Steve Slaton completely dominated the Georgia on the ground, accumulating 281 yards; White had 150 yards through the air as well. The star freshmen combined for four of West Virginia's five touchdowns as the Mountaineers dominated the Bulldogs 38-31.

-Special teams in Appalachia—Yes, it seems weird, but Kevin Kelly, the kicker for Penn State, and Phil Brady, West Virginia's punter, finished off their respective bowl games. As Kelly completed the victory for the Nittany Lions in the Orange Bowl with a field goal in the third overtime against Florida State, Brady ran (yes, ran) for a first down on a fake punt to seal the win for the Mountaineers.

-University of Texas—The Longhorns, in arguably one of the best bowl games in history,

defeated the heavily-favored USC Trojans. Though the odds were against them, with 2004 Heisman winner Matt Leinart at quarterback and 2005 Heisman winner Reggie Bush at running back (and wide receiver...and punt/kick returner), the second-ranked Longhorns persevered. Heisman runner-up Vince Young led Texas throughout the Rose Bowl, as he outran Bush 200 yards to 82, while also passing for 267 yards. The 'Horns scored with four different players, including Young, kicker David Pino, and running backs Ramoncel Taylor and Selvin Young. As the score displayed, the game was very close and very equal; both teams reached the first down marker thirty times, differed by only 18 in total yards, one in turnovers, and four in minutes of possession.

-BCS Bowls—The Orange, Sugar, Fiesta, and Rose Bowls accumulated to equal the most amazing series of bowls, ending in one of the most sought-after National Championship games in NCAA history, as #2 Texas defeated #1 USC.

Lumps of Coal:

-University of Oregon—After being the "odd man out" of the BCS bowls, sixth-ranked Oregon was matched up against unranked Oklahoma in the Holiday Bowl on December 29th. Not only was the game close, thus showing their unworthiness to be in a BCS bowl, but also Oregon lost to an unranked opponent. In a swift blow of fate, the Ducks lost their 7-3 lead at halftime, as Oklahoma prevailed 17-14.

-Mathias Kiwanuka (pronounced: "mah-thi-as kee-wahn-oo-kah")—Try pronouncing it correctly. Apparently, according to the CEO of MPC Computers (the sponsor of the Computers Bowl), "No one in either [Boston or Boise] can properly pronounce Mathias Kiwanuka." The statement was uttered at the banquet prior to the Computers Bowl, making fun of Boston College's All-American defensive end, who is the grandson of Uganda's first prime minister. The CEO greatly apologized to the 6'7", 261-pound Kiwanuka shortly after BC's 27-21 victory over Boise State.

-University of Michigan—In what is now being known as "Remember the Alamo...Bowl," the Michigan Wolverines were victimized by the most controversial call of the entire bowl season. Trailing by only four points with less than ten seconds left in the game, quarterback Chad Henne threw the ball to Jason Avant, who pitched it to Steve Breaston—thus starting an innumerable number of laterals, reminding fans of the "Music City Miracle" and the California-Stanford "The Band is on the Field" incident. However, members of Nebraska's bench and staff herded the field. One would think that this would result in a "too many men on the field" penalty...right? Wrong. The play concluded awkwardly, and Nebraska was awarded with the Alamo Bowl Trophy.

-Northwestern University—The Wildcats, who had finished a very good regular season, started off the Sun Bowl with a 22-0 lead. The next turn of irony, however, delivered the lump of coal into the pockets of quarterback Brett Basanez and company. The UCLA Bruins, led by senior quarterback Drew Olson, retaliated with 36 unanswered points, giving them a 36-22 lead in the third quarter. As Northwestern was showing hints of a comeback, trailing by only five points with 18 seconds remaining, UCLA's Brandon Breazell returned the onside kick for a touchdown, delivering the coup de grace as the Bruins emerged with a 50-38 victory.

-University of Iowa—Trailing by only a touchdown to Florida in the waning seconds of the Outback Bowl, Iowa kicked an onside kick, and, in an incredibly rare occasion, recovered it, giving them possession of the ball and a chance to tie the game. Unfortunately for the Hawkeyes, an offside penalty forced them to kick again. Florida recovered the kick, ran out the clock, and won the game.

-Marcus Vick—Though Vick's Virginia Tech Hokies defeated Louisville, his unprovoked kick of Louisville defensive end Elvis Dumervil resulted in a near suspension from the game. A week after this incident, Vick was pulled over for running a red light, then arrested for driving with a suspended license. Vick's complete expulsion from the football team followed this. Shortly after declaring that he would enter the NFL Draft in April, Vick was arrested for three counts of brandishing a firearm, thus making his legal troubles a major concern. At least big brother Michael never got in trouble!

-University of Miami—After fighting their way back into a high ranking entering bowl season, the Miami Hurricanes were demolished by a score of 40-3 by Louisiana State in the Peach Bowl. Soon after their loss, they found out that they would be suffering a loss equal to that in the Peach Bowl, as star cornerback/wide receiver/punt/kick returner Devon Hester will forego his senior year to go to the NFL to make enough money to help out his family, which was still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

-Special teams in the South—Though Texas kicker David Pino did in fact kick what would be the deciding three points in the Rose Bowl, he also missed an extra point. Also on the poor-kicking list was Central Florida's Matt Prater. After a Central Florida touchdown in overtime left the Golden Knights behind Nevada by one point, all Prater needed to do was to kick the ball through the uprights to continue the game into a second overtime. However, Prater missed the extra point, and Nevada emerged victorious. Next, another kicker from the state of Florida, Florida State's Gary Cismesia missed an extra point in regulation and two field goals in the subsequent overtimes, all of which could have won the game for Florida State. Instead, Penn State won by, yes, a field goal.

-University of Southern California (USC)—The first-ranked Trojans, who were being thought of as one of the best teams in NCAA history, lost to Texas in the Rose Bowl/National Championship Game by a field goal. Heisman winner Reggie Bush was held to only 82 yards on the ground, as his runner-up, Vince Young, rushed for 200 and passed for 267 more. Also, the Trojans three times tried to convert a fourth down and short yardage to go with their power back, LenDale White. Twice was White repealed by the powerful Texas defense, who forced the Trojans into two turnovers. Now, not only does Southern California lose the chances for a three-peat, but also their 34-game winning streak, their status as one of the best teams of all-time, and some of their key players, including junior running backs Reggie Bush and LenDale White, senior quarterback Matt Leinart, and nineteen other seniors.



Texas coach Mack Brown holds the ADT National Championship Trophy after the Longhorns' 41-38 victory over Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

GLOBAL SPORTS

Texas Shines, Young Departs



Derek Leab
Sports Editor

It's been a long time coming for the state of Texas. That time has finally arrived with the winning of the National Championship against number one ranked USC in the Rose Bowl. In the weeks leading up to the Rose Bowl, the media surrounded USC with all of the hype, not even considering Texas as a threat. Texas proved to be a threat and then some, beating the Trojans 41-38 and ending their 34-game winning streak. Texas Quarterback Vince Young shined throughout the game, totaling over 200 yards rushing and over 250 yards through the air. Young also scrambled for the winning score with 19 seconds left for Texas. Young should be recognized for his outstanding accomplishments this year, becoming the first player ever to pass for 2,500 yards and rush for 1,000 yards in the same season. Now, all Texas would like is a little bit of respect.

"We didn't get no respect from none of the media," Young said. "We really did work hard for it. We wanted to show the world we did deserve to play in this game and we deserved to go out there and get a victory. That's what we did." Texas certainly proved many wrong, disposing of a USC team that drew comparisons to some of the best teams ever. The only downside if you are a Texas fan right now, is that Vince Young has declared for the NFL draft. He has announced that he will skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft, which many people expected after a spectacular Rose Bowl performance. Not to worry Texas fans, the Houston Texans have this year's first overall selection in the draft.



Vince Young, right, celebrates with coach Mack Brown, left, after their victory in the Rose Bowl.

National Championship Game



Alex Hamel
Staff Writer

The National Championship game this year was between the Texas Longhorns and the two time defending champion USC Trojans. Both teams came into the game with a record of 12-0. The Trojans came into the game as favorites sporting a 34 game winning streak and two Heisman Trophy winners; Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush. The Longhorns were led by QB Vince Young. The game went back and forth the whole way, with the Trojans leading 24-23 entering the fourth quarter.

Texas had the ball with 2:09 remaining in the game trailing USC 38-33. Vince Young drove Texas down the field and set up a 4th down and 5 situation at the 8-yard line. Young rolled out to the right and made a dash towards the goal line for a Touchdown. Following the Touchdown, Young ran up the middle for the two-point conversion, giving Texas the 41-38 lead with just 19 seconds remaining. Needing a field goal to tie the game and force overtime, USC needed to move the ball quickly. Leinart tossed the ball to Reggie Bush for a 26-yard completion down to the Texas 43 yard line. With 8 seconds left, Leinart scrambled around and threw an incomplete pass towards the sidelines as time expired. The Texas Longhorns were crowned national champions, ending USC's 34 game win streak and crushing there hopes of winning a third straight national title.

New Year Resolution for Bruins: WIN some Games!



Alyssa L'Bassi
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With the start of the New Year, Bruins fans were hoping for a change in pace and better play from the B's. Instead, we have been disappointed once again with a less than professional level performance. Boston faced some of their biggest losses of the season at are own home rink this past January, losing 6-2 to San Jose on the 10th,

and then 6-0 to Tampa on the 12th. That marked a two games streak where Raycroft gave up a discouraging six goals.

Raycroft was stuck in a rut this past January, not playing with the skill that he has shown in previous games earlier in the season. He has not performed well in quite some time, and with his contract coming to end, his future with the bruins remains uncertain. Not all can be blamed on the goaltending though; the Bruin's offense and defensive lines had some trouble in the first early weeks of '06. Bad passes and, at times, what seems like a simple lack of effort had haunted the team.

Goaltender Tim Thomas has made the difference in many of the Bruins past games. Finally traded back to Boston after leaving in '03, Thomas has taken over the top goaltending position, leaving Raycroft on the bench while making the crucial saves.

The Bruins have fortunately started to turn things around, with a big 6-3 win against Tampa Bay and 5-0 victory over Ottawa. When the Bruins get focused and compete at the level that they have been known for in the past, more wins would surely come. As of February 9th, they had won eight of their last 12 games. Boston fans continue to support and cheer on their team, hopefully driving them to step up their play for the remainder of the season.

Damon to the Yankees



Alex Hamel
Staff Writer

In a move that came as a shock to Red Sox nation, Johnny Damon signed a 4 year/\$52 million deal with the New York Yankees. Damon, with his long hair and beard, had become the face of the franchise. Damon was beloved by the Boston fans, Damon turned down the Red Sox offer of 4 years/\$40 million to stay with the team.

This move clearly showed that there is no more loyalty in the game. It has turned into a business, where players sell themselves to the highest bidder. "My message to Red Sox fans is I tried, I tried everything in my power to come back, but unfortunately, I know they're going to be upset," he said. "I just want them to know that I appreciate them and I tried and that's the least I can do. I know they're going to continue to root for the Red Sox, which they should, and I'm going to win another World Series, so that's going to have to be right now. It's going to be tough to say bye to some of the greatest fans in the world. Unfortunately, they had to see this day and it's time to move forward."

The loss of Damon to their archrival, not only fuels the rivalry further and fills a hole in the Yankees lineup, but it also creates one for the Red Sox. With his hitting ability and speed, Johnny Damon had become one of the best leadoff men in baseball. He adds yet another weapon to the already powerful Yankees lineup. Not only does it create a hole at the top of Boston's lineup, it also leaves one in center. Although Damon's arm was on the weaker side, his range was superb.

Damon's most memorable season with the team was in 2004, when he batted .304 with 20 homers and 94 RBI's. Damon saved his best moments for when it mattered most. In Game 7 of the 2004 ALCS, Damon hit two home runs, including a grand slam, driving in 6 RBI's for the team to lead them to there first world series appearance in 18 years. Damon will be missed by Red Sox nation, who will get their first chance to see Damon in action against the Red Sox on May 1st, 2006 at Fenway Park.

Ronaldo



Eric Figueiredo
Staff Writer

For those who know the soccer world, they have to have heard of the great Brazilian striker Ronaldo. He started playing the game at a very young age where soccer is the heart of the country and soul of the culture. You can see kids play in the streets bare feet with nothing but a ball. This is where the young talent progresses and develops. This is where stars are born.

For years Brazil has been known for producing some of the best players to ever play the game. Ronaldo has been one of the most successful players and has led Brazil to two world cups in three attempts. It seems every time he is remotely close to the ball great things happen. He creates scoring chances in limited space, which makes him so dangerous to defenders.

In the last World Cup in 2002, he captured the Golden Boot after his eight goals led them to the championship. After the tournament, Real Madrid a Spanish premier team who won their league championships bought Ronaldo for an estimated 45 million euros. He has played at the highest level in Holland, Spain, Brazil, and Italy.

This coming year he claims will be his last year for the Brazilian National team. As they head into this year's competition, they will attempt to defend their championship in the 2006 World Cup. Ronaldo will be set to play in sure to impress thousands of people once again.



Johnny Damon, above, has signed with the Yankees this offseason.



ISSUE 3 FEBRUARY '06

Super Fan Seating



Amanda Cosenza
Staff Writer

A Super Fan section has been permanently made in our gym. Above the bleachers a 12 ft by 4 ft navy blue and Vegas gold banner is displayed. This

Super Fan banner is designated to make a student fan section for the games. "You can't hide that Colonial pride" is the quote written under

above: The new Super Fan Banner is added to the SHS Field House. "Super Fan Seating". Stacie Moore and Amanda Cosenza were the two members of the Sports Management who took control of ordering the banner. The Sports Management group has been trying to promote more school spirit at the athletic games by having fun half time contests where you can win gift certificates to various restaurants. There are also special nights that if you wear your Super Fan shirt you can get in the game for a cheaper price, or get free pizza. Come show your school spirit by wearing blue and gold or your Super Fan shirt at the Girls and Boys basketball games this winter season.

Boys Track Finishes

An Undefeated Regular Season



Michelle Leroux
Sports Editor

On January 18, 2006, the boys' Shrewsbury High indoor track team finished 6-0 in the Mid-Wach League. Overall, the boys' record was 6-1, with their only loss to Saint John's High School. This is the first time the boys have ever completed a season with a perfect league record. The boys upset track powers Algonquin and North Middlesex -- North Middlesex was expected to beat Shrewsbury 51-40, but the score was actually reversed at the end of the meet. The 2006 track team was pleased with their defeat over Algonquin Regional High School because it is our school rival in almost every sport.

Senior Jorge Tercilla commented, "Finishing undefeated was a great way to end this year's season, especially since it was my last."

The top three boys of each event will continue on to compete in a Coaches Relay Invitational Meet on the 21st of January. The boys will also move on to leagues on January 28, and Districts on February 11.

Girls On the Right Track



Amanda Cosenza
Staff Writer

The girls track team is doing very well, as expected, led by captains Sarah Lord, Tarah Hunter, Carolina Vega and Rachel Williams. They have a current record of 4-2. Mr. Costa and assistant

coach Mrs. Clark coach the team. They beat Leominster and Milford at their first meet. In a meet against Fitchburg and Wachusett, they beat Fitchburg but had a devastating loss to Wachusett by one point. The team looked forward to an upcoming meet facing the highly competitive Algonquin team, with a record of 4-0. Shrewsbury defeated Notre Dame Academy but lost to Algonquin. It came

runk with another tie added to their record.

Even though the season did not go as planned the boys should still be proud of their successes. They learned to play as a team and with only eight players graduating, the remainder of the team are sure to have better luck next year since playing as a team won't be such a new concept.

Shooting For Victory



Amy Adair
Special Projects Editor

At the beginning of winter, the twelve players of the Varsity girls' basketball team returned for another intense season. After a year of having two different coaches during one season, the girls were eager to meet yet another coach. Head coach Beth McNamara, who had played and coached basketball for Fitchburg State and also coached at Oakmont and Murdock High School for the past ten years, feels, "basketball doesn't build character, it reveals it." Accompanying McNamara is assistant coach Derrick Bennett who played basketball at Salem State and also had previous coaching experience at Fitchburg State. The senior captain is Tayana Carper, who is attending Holy Cross next year.

The enthusiastic Lady Colonials started the season by weight lifting twice a week, attending speed and

record of 11-7, the girls are continuously practicing for the rest of their regular season games and preparing for more challenging games in districts where it is "a new start where anything can happen" according to Amanda Cosenza.

Boys and Girls Track: League Meet Results



Michelle Leroux
Sports Editor

On January 28, 2006, both the Shrewsbury High boys' and girls' track teams participated in the League Meet at Fitchburg High School. Both SHS track teams finished third overall. Algonquin came in first with 89 points and Wachusett received 70 points for second place. Shrewsbury placed with a total of 68 points. For the girls, Wachusett finished first with 113 points, Algonquin finished with 97 points in second, and Shrewsbury came in third with their 76 points.

Since the Shrewsbury boys finished 6-0 in the regular season, they were named co-league champions with Algonquin. Some highlights from the meet included the 4x800 relay domination by Senior Alex Hamel, Junior Chris Coates, Sophomore Chris Covello and Junior Sammi Elhajjajay. They placed first in the relay, making them league all-stars. Other notable performances included Tom

down to the last event, but SHS fell short.

The girl's track team has a lot of new members contributing to the successful team, including junior Rikki Hullinger who has one of the fastest times for distance. With early morning practices on their winter vacation the girls had diligent practices. "We worked really hard during the winter break in order to improve ourselves so we will have a successful season," senior hurdler Sara Troccoli commented.

Ice, Ice Baby



Kara Crosson
Student Affairs Editor

With a record of 2-12-2 the Shrewsbury High boy's ice hockey team struggled through their winter season, but there were improvements with every game. Senior captains Sam Masterson and Dan Stone were looked upon for leadership but they could not quite bring the team to districts. This is the first time the Shrewsbury High hockey team has not made it past regular season since the mid 80's.

Made up with different components that make the team, all of the sections worked hard all season. Defense was strong with senior Jeff Ryan, juniors Jeff Comeau, Mike Corron, Sean Parsons, Mike Taher, Charles Spencer, Carlo Valentine and lone freshman Colin Shea. Although scoring is one of their weak points seniors John Liberty, Ben Tipple, Dan Ellis, Matt Tarpey, and Stone; juniors Jay Alera, Adam Ostrosky, and Mike Cicuto, and sophomores Mark Murray and Andrew Ineson worked hard on offense to put the puck in the net. Their captain Masterson was a positive role model as he finished the season with fourteen goals.

Although the record may not show it, this team experienced tremendous growth. With the majority of the teammates being underclassmen they had to work hard to come together and play as a team. These results showed as time went on. On January 14th the Colonials faced off against Marlboro, a team in the past who was considered to be top contenders in the league. The Colonial boys fought hard this year though and the teams battled head to head through three periods. Jeff Ryan took control of the scoring with two goals, making sure his team did not get off the ice defeated. Junior goalie Mike Marazik played well in the net and the boys left the



Alex Hamel, Chris Coates, Chris Covello and Sammi Elhajjajay show off their medals after coming in first in the 4x800 relay at their League Meet. These four boys were named league all-stars.

agility, and diligently practicing four times a week with games on Tuesdays and Fridays. Carper along side five additional seniors, Abby Cosenza, Amanda Cosenza, Meghan Gardner, Ida Henry, and Colleen O'Brien are continuously leading the girls through hard-fought games in hopes of triumphant wins.

Their efforts seemed to pay off when the girls celebrated victories against Gardner and Leominster. During the Leominster game, both teams worked vigorously. The Lady Colonials were able to pull through earning them a 60-53 victory over the Blue Devils who had hoped to gain their Mid-Watch A title of League Champions. However, it had not all been success and happiness for the Colonials prior to this. After losing some upsetting games, the girls knew they had to concentrate on accomplishing their tenth win to qualify for a position in districts. This triumph came for the girls against Wachusett. With their current

Scarduzio's second place throw in Shot Put and Chris Covello's second place in the two mile.

Although the Girls Track team didn't finish with as many points as they had hoped, many individuals shone during their performances. Sophomore Ashlyn Derosier came in fourth for high jump and first in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 9.1 seconds. Junior Brook Scibelli came in fourth for the hurdles with a time of 9.8 seconds. Senior Michalla Mahney came in fourth for Shot Put and Junior Brianna Stidsen came in fifth. The Shrewsbury girls also won the 4x400 relay.

Unfortunately, one of Shrewsbury's top distance runners, Junior Rikki Hullinger, dropped out of the two mile due to her shin splints. She had planned on running the 4x800 relay, but was replaced by Sophomore Tessa McGrail who just came off of an injury. Tessa competed in the two mile before the relay and her time qualified her for states.



Awaiting the State Meet



Carolina Vega
Sports Editor

Last year, girls' track achieved a nearly perfect season and should have tied with Wachusett for the League Championships, but fell to second place due to an earlier paperwork error. The tragedy that something so minor could undermine so many hard meets and long practices was crushing, but on a positive note, that loss motivated these girls to all new heights.

No less than 130 girls tried out for the track team this year, a new high in all the four years that Mr. Costa has been the girls' Head Coach. Other teams' coaches suggested that with such vast numbers, there must be a certain loss in pure athletic quality. Yet when he saw all of 100 girls surviving and working together through Hell Week, Coach Costa said confidently, "I don't see a lot of dead weight out there."

For the winter season, Senior Captains Tarah Hunter, Sarah Lord, Rachael Williams, and Carolina Vega were leading the team.

Coach Costa's personal aspiration is to fulfill the promise that he made to Mr. Warren upon accepting the Girls' Head Track position in 2002; he told



Sophomore Jess Ames and Senior Anne Rocheleau are working hard to stay in shape.

Mr. Warren that in four years he would rebuild the girls' team, bring it back to its former glory, and make it into "the feared school it once was."

This was definitely within their reach, considering their huge source of leadership, present in the seventeen seniors and numerous juniors. Some have spent the last four years on this team, working hard toward a common aim, and have met with unbelievable success as a result; seniors Hunter, Lord, Williams, Vega, Vanessa Alphonse, Steph Mitchell, Marsha Atlabatchew, Michaela Mahoney, Lindsay Bigda, Kelsey Loftus and Jana Bolton all returned for the season of '05-'06.

Of course, this team not only had great leadership but an immense source of talent; every returning class held past and current State Meet qualifiers.

Later in the season, those that managed to qualify their racing times, high jump heights, or shot put throws for the League, District, and State meet continued to practice through February.

In both the League meet and the District meet, the girls managed to place 3rd, and are hoping to do even better next year.

Costa believes that in some aspects, this year's team surpassed last year's, despite the fact that it suffered the loss of respected Distance Coach Peggy Holdash, who decided to take a season off for personal reasons.

Every member of this varsity team is raring to run in the State meet and show perennial rival Algonquin what Shrewsbury is about. According to Lord, "We have the most potential that I've seen in the past four years."

Shrewsbury XC a Top Contender



Carolina Vega
Sports Editor

Since their one shocking loss against North Middlesex, girls' Cross-Country stepped up their work ethic to a whole new level. After completing all of ten dual meets over the past two months, the girls pulled away with an impressive 10 and 1 record, a second place finish in the League, and a third place in the District Meet.

The Shrewsbury boys also did well, finishing with a 9 and 2 record; even better, none of their losses occurred within the League.

At the League Meet on Saturday, October 29th, sudden snowfall made navigating the new course at Ghiloni Park, in Marlboro, extremely treacherous. It was looking bleak for both the boys' and girls' teams, but they still finished the race with two League All-Stars each. (League-All Stars are the top ten finishers in each race).

For the boys, Sophomore Chris Covello led with a fourth place finish, and Senior Gary Dodakian trailed him by two seconds to take sixth. Overall, the underestimated Red Raiders of Fitchburg claimed the meet with a score of 71 points to Shrewsbury's 84. Yet thanks to Shrewsbury's perfect League record, and Fitchburg's one earlier loss, the two teams shared the championship.

The lady Colonials were not as fortunate, with their second place finish after rival Wachusett. Wachusett claimed the meet with 31 points to Shrewsbury's 66, and while Shrewsbury had beaten the Mountaineers in their dual meet, their loss to North Middlesex allowed Wachusett to claim the League title by a point. Despite this unfortunate milestone, there were some positive notes that Saturday morning. Senior Carolina Vega, who took 2nd, and Sophomore Tessa McGrail, who took 7th, were declared League All-Stars. Also, in this race, three of the varsity seven in this race were all Cross-Country rookies. Despite being new to the sport, all three placed well; Sophomore Kristin Ross took 14th, while Freshmen Phenoms Katie Kalinowski and Rachael Kadish took 22nd and 31st.

At ten o'clock on November 12th, in the District meet, girls' Cross-Country proved that every point, place, and second matters, with their attainment of third place over fourth place North Middlesex. Shrewsbury took the last qualifying slot for States with 163 points to North Middlesex's 165.

Unfortunately, the boys' team was unable to qualify for States as a team. Yet there were some notable performances, including Sophomore Covello's amazing 13th place finish and Freshman Anthony Frissora's 49th. Covello advanced to the State meet as an individual qualifier.



The girls dance team takes a quick moment from their rehearsal to pose together.

A Variety of Talent



Emily Frongillo
Staff Writer

As many students may have noticed at this fall's Variety Show, the Dance Team took the stage with a dazzling display of teamwork and style. A plethora of talent from a wide range of dancers made the performance a huge success. Weeks of planning and hard work paid off for the enthusiastic group, making the Variety Show an event to remember.

The team met twice a week during the tense period before the performance; practices took place on Mondays and Wednesdays. The dancers even gave up

their holiday to visit the house of team captain Caitlyn Mason, for a series of run-throughs and final adjustments. They sacrificed their free time to get to rehearsals early, building a strong sense of camaraderie while also improving their technique and moves. In the end, the team seemed content with the results. "It was fun," said Holly Frongillo, a freshman who joined at the start of the season, "We did it for ourselves, just because we love to dance."

The team is a rich blend of all skill levels; no one is left behind. Dances are choreographed according to the specific abilities of different groups, and any unique choreography is welcome. The group's skilled captains (besides Caitlyn there is Maria Lanzilotti and Jocelyn

Burwick) put together a large chunk of the routine, comprising steps and moves that flowed and gave the number a sense of energy and flair. Other members, however, took the initiative to design their own selections and teach them to the class. With so much team cooperation, it's no wonder the group was a hit.

Future ideas the Dance Team has for fundraising include hosting a Middle School dance and putting on a performance at Floral Street School later in the year. The team's advisor Mrs. Jha, who also teaches English, has been working hard to get the girls involved and has years of dance experience herself. With such creativity, the Dance Team is sure to have a year that they can proudly look back on in the future.

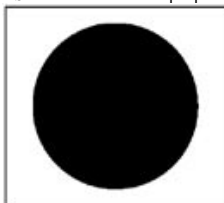
The Survey



Kyla Phoenix
Staff Writer

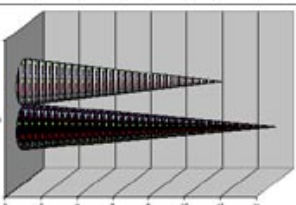
Would you rather go on a Caribbean cruise with Tim Allen or play soccer with Lance Armstrong?

Caribbean Cruise: 23 people
Soccer with Lance: 2 people



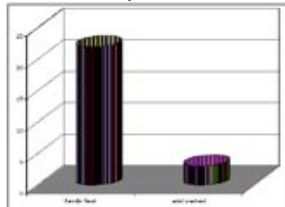
Would you rather sew jeans for everyone in Pearl Jam or bake Tiramisu for Oliver Twist?

Jeans for P.J.: 14 people
Please sir, can I have some more?: 11 people.



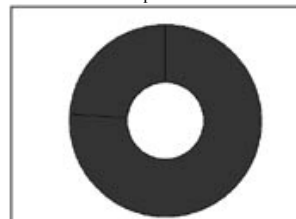
Would you rather have to wear leather chaps and acid washed jeans for five years straight or have to perform Irish step-dancing on Family Feud?

Acid Washed: 3
Family Feud: 22



Would you rather share lip balm with Eugene Levy or go starfish hunting with Tara Lipinski?

Lip Balm: 6
Tara Lipinski: 19



Would you rather your legs were made of Aluminum foil or your face was made of lasagna?

Aluminum Foil: 21
Lasagna: 4



Secrets of Saint Valentine



Karolina Pekala
Features Editor

Valentine's Day is popularized as a time of giving cards, chocolate, or flowers. However, Valentine's Day was much different throughout history.

Legend has it that Saint Valentine was a priest who was martyred for his faith. He was in prison before he was executed and fell in love with the jailor's daughter. The day he was set to die, he wrote her a letter closing with the words, "From your Valentine."

Valentine's Day was first celebrated during the time of Ancient Romans, but its closest resemblance to present day was in the Middle Ages, when women wrote their names and slipped them into a jar from which men would pick their "Valentine." The woman chosen were then receivers of special attention, some even receiving balls in their honor if the men were very wealthy. Another Middle Ages custom also employed the use of a jar, but both men and women picked out a piece of paper. Then they would wear their Valentine's name on their sleeve for a week, which would later be coined as "wearing your heart on your sleeve."

During this time, women received many gifts. In Wales, wooden spoons

"...they would wear their Valentine's name on their sleeve for a week, which would later be coined as 'wearing your heart on your sleeve'"

were carved and adorned with hearts and keyholes, which would eventually lead to the popular expression, "You unlock my heart." Gifts, however, were gradually replaced with love letters. In the eighteen-century, many shops sold books with verses for readers to copy out onto a hand made card. The first real Valentine's Day cards emerged in the early 1800s, with pictures of angels and gardens on the cover and were blank inside, leaving room for one to leave their own thoughts. Other cards of this era were quite elaborate; most were hand painted and included lace, ribbon, feathers, or imitation jewelry.

Cards are still popular in America today, but other countries have different customs and traditions. English children go from door to door and sing Valentine's Day songs to acquire gifts of candy, fruit, or money. Valentine's

Day buns there include caraway seeds, plums, or raisins. In romantic Italy, there are entire feasts dedicated to the holiday.

Though the traditions and customs may change, Valentine's Day is sure to remain a popular holiday in America and abroad.

Romantic Date Ideas



Amanda Dick
Student Affairs

Around Valentine's Day, you may be wondering if you are going to get up the courage to ask your crush out. That's the worst part and usually is the only part you think about. But don't forget- make sure you have an idea for a date! Don't just say "we'll figure it out" or "we'll just hang out". You'll be sure to really impress your date and be on your way to a relationship if you show enough initiative to come up with a romantic idea. Here are a couple ideas for Valentine's Day or anytime you want to take that special someone out:

1. It's hard to go wrong with a classic candlelit dinner. Go all out- buy roses, candles, and buy nice take-out food if you're too worried about cooking yourself.
2. Cooking dinner together could be fun as well. Similarly to a candlelit dinner at home, it's all about a romantic presentation. A little effort goes a long way. However, a lot of effort goes even further. Try writing a poem



A classic dinner together sets the perfect romantic mood.

to express how you feel.

3. If you want to put in a lot of effort, try a scavenger hunt with the directions attached to roses. Use inside jokes and clues that only the two of you know.
4. Take advantage of the winter season. Go sledding, ice skating, or skiing for the day. After, warm up together around a cozy fire with hot chocolate.
5. Perhaps you associate going to church as an extremely boring experience, in which case this may not be for you. However, going to church together could be really relaxing and a good way to get to know a new side of someone.
6. Another way to learn a lot about another person is to volunteer together. It could be something

simple like going to the food bank or just trying to donate blood. It's a good opportunity to talk and accomplish something at the same time.

7. If you're really rolling in dough, the previous suggestions may sound too simple. In this case, you have lots of options! Rent a limo for the night and drive around Boston with dinner at a high class restaurant. Buy tickets to a popular concert with music that you both like. Depending on your entertainment interests, buy tickets to a musical, theater, or ice skating show.

8. If you really don't want to be adventurous and would really just rather "hang out," simple gestures to make an evening more special can go a long way. Especially if it's a first date, always hold doors and pull out chairs. A lot of girls don't really think it's a big deal either way, but you don't want her to wonder why you don't do it. Most do at least appreciate the little things, so you are better off doing them.

Good luck and have a happy Valentine's Day!

Six More Weeks of Ice in your Face



Amy Gregory
Staff Writer

Shrewsbury is still 20 degrees which means everyone will be sledding in August. No one can ever wear shorts again. Just terri-cloth zip-ups and angora sweaters and UGG boots FOREVER. At least it won't be 90 degrees; at least everything won't melt on the pavement. At our Memorial Day party, when I was like nine, our lawn chairs melted to our driveway, and everyone wanted to play basketball but they couldn't because there were chairs all over the place. No



Above: The scapgoat for the next six weeks.

jump shots allowed. But that's the only plus, that you can't make pancakes on the sidewalk. Instead you are frostbitten when you get the mail; you know that feeling when your eyes are cold? Only people in New England know. Someone from Texas can't be like, "Yo, yo, hey man, my eyes were cold yesterday!" It's like I always expect it not to be hailing on my face or there not to be black ice covering my steps—I fall every morning and the ice encases the car door so I have to smash the ice away with my mom's garden gnome. I hate garden gnomes, they come alive at night, I know they do. I can hear them dancing outside my window when I sleep.

But since the groundhog saw it's shadow and ran back into the ground...winter will be forever this year.

SHS FEATURES

Issue 3 February 2006



Tea parties such as this one are meant for tables in designated rooms, not for the hallways of SHS.

People Having Tea Parties in the Middle of the Hallway



Amy Gregory
Staff Writer

People swarm the hallways with disregard for anyone else. I walk out of class and I am suddenly barricaded by a mass of people—playing double dutch? I try to break through, but all attempts fail. I guess my “guns” are not sufficient enough. Maybe I’ll join in on this game of jump rope, and I begin to show my skill; but it turns out to be some sort of Irish jig. It is NOT a game of double dutch. I cower between the lockers and the wall and try to figure out what this gathering is. Maybe it’s a potluck dinner? Should I bring a turkey leg? Would that make *them* love me? I run to the vending machine and buy enough food to feed all the orphans in the world. Imagine, every orphan in the world smiling, sitting on my lap eating a fruit roll-up.

I arrive with my arms full of pop tarts and granola bars; still no movement. I re-assess the predicament I have been placed in and I start to question this group. They look like they are having a baby shower.

Eating Disorders and the Media: Is There Too Much Pressure to be Thin?



Cara Howe
Features Editor

When we turn on our televisions, flip through a magazine, or pass by billboards, we are bombarded with pictures of gorgeous women with the “perfect body.” Many are in excellent shape with personal trainers and nutritionists that help them to achieve that perfect body. Others, however, take a more dangerous route. One in every 100 women between the ages of 10 and 20 suffer from an eating disorder in the United States and about 18% of those will die as a cause of their disorder. Why are women starving themselves?

For many, it is a control issue. Singer Fiona Apple suffered from bulimia after being raped at a young age. She felt if she lost her curves, men wouldn’t want her. For many others that are parading the red carpets, however, they desire to be thin and gorgeous, no matter what it takes. Now

No one hears me. Do these children go to this school? Do they have classes? Will I have to stay after school and work out in the weight room because I am late for gym? Will staying after in the weight room make me sexy?

Minutes pass and I become barbaric, I MUST get past the pasta party in front of me. I begin to yell in a foreign tongue, and it appears to be Spanish at times, “dsg AYUDAR! YO SOY PAPEL!! NfnaUFnaunf! EL RELOJ ES MI PAPA!” I receive disturbed looks, most likely because I just screamed, “the clock is my father.” And “Help! I am paper.” At least they looked at me. But that solves nothing.

What would life be like without this situation? Am I jealous? Maybe if they cordially invited me, like if a lacey invitation was sent to my house along with a fruit basket—things would be different. I think about me and them joyfully skipping through a meadow of daisies, playing red rover and backgammon. Long afternoons of pool parties and piñatas on a sun porch. I think about Lynn Giannino and what her views on this would be. I think she would be angry, very angry and emotionally distraught. I think she would weep for days, crying in a quilt placed upon her lap, the wool soaking up her sorrow because people did not have the common courtesy to let me by them. I stare at the media center and feel its disappointment as a single tear falls down my cheek.



Something to Chew On



Anne McCarthy
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

With the start of a new year, the Food and Drug Administration announced new regulations for food labeling. Food labels, which are required for all prepared foods such as bread, cereal, snacks, frozen food, and drinks, will now include listings of trans fat on the nutrition label. This new mandate, effective January 1, 2006 will affect most packaged and labeled foods that are sold in the United States.

Trans fat, which includes partially hydrogenated oil and some animal-based foods, has been more visible in the public eye, especially in the past year. We are now conditioned to seeing a flashy “No trans fat” label on many packaged foods as we browse the aisles at the grocery store. Kraft Foods has made a large effort to eliminate or minimize the amount of trans fat in their food. The loophole in this requirement comes in that if a product contains .5 g per serving of trans fat or less, it need not be listed on the nutrition label.

So why the brouhaha over this trans fat? Though it will now be easier to detect how much trans fat is in given foods, certain foods that have greater amounts of trans fat than others. Spreads, such as margarine are loaded with trans fat and saturated fat. Soft-tub margarine is a good alternative that contains less trans fat. Packaged foods such as mixes contain several grams of trans fat per serving. Alternatively, baking at home with flour and baking powder eliminates this problem. Not so surprising, fast foods like French fries and commercially backed goods like doughnuts carry hefty amounts of trans fat. For a healthier choice, try

sharing these guilty pleasures with a couple of friends or make it a rare treat. Cookies and candy rank high in fat content, though a chocolate bar contains more trans fat than a serving of gummy bears.

In the end, this new regulation by the Food and Drug Administration will ultimately serve its purpose to better educate the American consumer. However, the FDA can only go so far. While it’s unnecessary to deprive yourself of foods you love, remember: moderation! Also, the FDA has done their part in trying to curb the consumption of trans fat; it’s now in the consumer’s hands. Whether you maintain your eating habits, or make an effort to alter them, this new awareness has surely given you something to chew on.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 cup (228g)	
Servings Per Container 2	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 260	Calories from Fat 120
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 13g	20%
Saturated Fat 5g	25%
Trans Fat 2g	
Cholesterol 30mg	10%
Sodium 660mg	28%
Total Carbohydrate 31g	10%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 5g	
Protein 5g	
Vitamin A 4%	Vitamin C 2%
Calcium 15%	Iron 4%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a diet of other people's misdeeds.	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 25g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram:	
Fat 9	Carbohydrate 4 Protein 4

Now all food labels will be required by the FDA to show the breakdown of fat as trans fat as well as the already required saturated fat.



Notice the difference between a healthy Victoria Beckham, left, and a not so healthy Beckham, right.

don’t get me wrong, just because a female superstar has an amazing body doesn’t mean she has an eating disorder. However, many have admitted to having battled one over the course of their careers, from the late Princess Diana to Jessica Alba, to more than half the Spice Girls. Princess Diana had admitted to being bulimic for quite some time, beginning a week after her engagement when her husband commented on the flab he felt when placing his hand on her waist. Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice), Victoria Beckham (Posh Spice) and Melanie Chisom (Sporty Spice) of

the Spice Girls have all admitted to having had eating disorders as well. The three at one time were using liquid meal substitutes after feeling the pressure from management for the girls to lose weight. Each took their individual paths as to the kind of eating disorders they suffered from, however all claimed it was due to the desire to be thin. Others that have admitted to at one time or another had an eating disorder include Brandy, Paula Abdul, Ashlee Simpson, Jessica Alba, Sally Field, and Mary Kate Olsen. A most recent confession to an eating disorder is party girl Lindsay

Lohan. She confessed to *Vanity Fair* magazine of being bulimic. She too desired that perfect body that many women crave to have and would do anything for.

Why do these women subject themselves to such abuse? Is it that they are so pressured by their managers, their fans, and the general demands of the business to have the perfect body? Or is there some other underlying issues that lead these girls to such harmful behavior. Several stars have vowed to help others avoid the same pain they once suffered. Tracey Gold, who played Carol Seaver on *The Growing Pains*, was both anorexic and bulimic at some point in her life, and after recovering, wrote a book entitled *Room to Grow An Appetite for Life*, explaining how she almost starved herself to death, and through the help of close friends and family, recovered. In their book *Dying to Be Healthy* Playboy models Shane and Sia Barbi, known as the Barbi twins, also retold their terrible tale of hitting rock bottom after being bulimics. They exercised 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. Shane’s method of removing food was vomiting, while Sia’s was taking laxatives. The girls realized just how severe their actions were when Sia collapsed from a drug overdose on laxatives and fell into cardiac arrest.

It is understandable that the pressure of the media forces these stars to work for a desirable body, but how far must they go?

SHS FEATURES

Issue 3 February 2006

Classics Continued



Karolina Pekala
Features Editor

We have already explored classic music and movies; naturally, classic literature follows. These are the books you will probably never read in school, but are the best of the lot, clearly defined by their time and message.

Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy. Considered by a plethora of critics to be the best work of literature of all time, Tolstoy transports us to his native Russia in the late nineteenth century at the peak of social hierarchy. Anna Karenina, a charismatic married woman, comes to Moscow to visit her brother to help him with his marital woes. When she is introduced to Vronsky, a young army officer who all believe with marry Kitty, a woman closer to his age, Anna is mesmerized and soon finds herself hounded by Vronsky, who even journeys to St. Petersburg to be with her. As the love affair begins with Anna's fear of foreboding, it unfolds with a slew of consequences and disasters, seen from the eyes of many characters.

Rebecca, Daphne Du Maurier. When a young woman travels to France with her chaperone, she meets Maxim de Winter, a rich man and widower who owns the luxurious estate of Manderley in England. The book is encased in mystery as the young heroine marries Maxim, a man twice her age, and at Manderley finds secrets that soon uncover the true death of Rebecca, a woman whom society loved but whose true personality was hidden. This novel is a true mystery, complete with terror, suspense, and a villain, Mrs. Danvers, the former maid of Rebecca who worshipped her and now makes life miserable for the new Mrs. de Winter. Secrets and mysteries are unraveled in



"Last night I dreamt I was at Manderley again..."

this classic novel, but one never finds out the heroine's name, and the only clue is Maxim's words at the ending, saying that he loved how unusual and exotic it was.

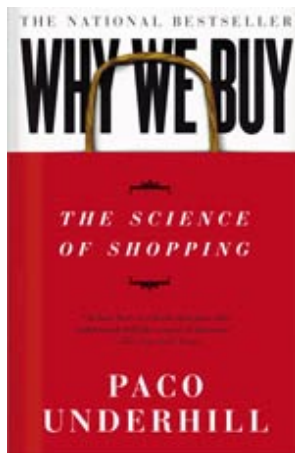
Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell. This epic, 1,037-page book is radically different from its film version. Scarlett, a headstrong sixteen-year-old, loves her lavish life of plantations and beaux, and doubts that Civil War will ever happen, irritated that talk of it ruined all the balls and barbecues. A picture of the old South is vividly painted, filled with traditions and kinship between plantations, and the bravery and honor of sons of wealthy plantation owners who go to war to protect slavery, to honor their homeland, and to save their way of life, only to never return, to the anguish of their mothers, sisters, and wives. Scarlett herself is widowed in the first weeks of the war, but she had only married Charles Hamilton to spite Ashley Wilkes, who rejected her to marry Melanie. Scarlett, full of life and forward ideas, chases Ashley, virtuous, honorable, and the symbol of the old South, even years after war and Reconstruction come to a close. During this time, the arrogant yet debonair Rhett Butler comes into Scarlett's life, but she doesn't realize she loves him until it's too late. This book was famous for the love story within it, but the destruction of the old South, devastating defeats, the demoralizing effects of Reconstruction, and the pains of loved ones forever gone are what make the most impact on readers, making them feel the same pain that resonated throughout the South over a century ago.

Why We Buy: The Science of Shopping.



Aparna Garg
Student Affairs Editor

Does psychology really have anything to do with the way we shop? Is something as simple as shopping really



such a complex matter? Paco Underhill, a world-famous retail anthropologist and urban geographer and the founder and CEO of Envirosell Inc., has attempted to answer these intriguing questions through his insightful book, *Why We Buy: The Science of Shopping*. This book is both interesting and creative and filled with statistics and sociological evidence.

Paco Underhill and his group of retail researchers have camped out in stores over the course of 20 years, dedicating their lives to the "science of shopping." "The science of shopping is a hybrid discipline," Paco says, "part physical science, part social science, and only part science at all, for it is also partly an art."

Using video equipment, store maps, and customer-profile sheets, Underhill and his consulting firm, Envirosell, have observed over 900 aspects of interaction between shopper and store. Among their interesting discoveries include the following:

- 65 per cent of men who try on jeans buy them - 25 percent of women do
- 86 per cent of women check price tags while shopping, while 72 percent of men do.
- Two-thirds of supermarket purchases are unplanned.
- Men are more likely than women to cave in to kids' pleas for impulse items
- Too many mirrors inside stores turn off shoppers.

Why We Buy: The Science of Shopping is highly recommended, especially for those students interested in pursuing a business or psychology major. This book offers an interesting insight to the way shopping and retail works.

What type of student are you?



Ashley Auger
Special Projects Editor

1. It's 7:17 and your alarm clock never went off (again). What is your reaction?
a) rush out of bed, brush your teeth and race to school still in your pajamas
b) take a shower, eat breakfast and still take time to put up an away message
c) just roll over and go back to sleep

2. It's finally lunch but you still have a lot of 7th period homework to do. You..
a) skip lunch so you can finish your homework in the media center
b) head to the commons telling yourself that you will finish it while eating your pasta
c) don't do it and make up a lame excuse about how your book is lost in your friend's car

3. Finally it's vacation! Some of your plans would typically include:

a) spending time with the family and friends and also getting a little homework done
b) having fun all of vacation, then cram to finish your project the night before it's due
c) sleeping, going out with your friends, and more sleeping, basically.

4. Your friend's stressed about not having a prom date and has little time to find one. You..

a) work your magic and set her up with another cute single friend of yours
b) force them to be brave and ask their crush to go with them!
c) tell them not to worry...dates are over rated and they will still have fun going solo.

5. Finals are just around the corner and you feel really unprepared. You will..

a) devote the next two weeks to being locked in your room, reading your books cover to cover
b) study a little bit every night in an effort to get the material into your brain
c) relax. Take them as they come and not worry about it until after all is said and done

6. It's finally senior year and you're most looking forward to..

a) nothing. You're scared and don't really want to go to college now that the time has come.
b) college, being able to get out of high school, moving on to bigger things, etc.
c) graduating and getting to sleep in now!

7. If you were to identify yourself on your team or club, you would be...

a) captain or president. You probably even founded this club yourself
b) a key part in getting done what



Are you a Bart or a Lisa when it comes to school?

needs to get done on the team c) you don't really do after school activities much

Mostly

You're amongst the most studious of students here at Shrewsbury High School. You constantly have your work done and are always prepared. It's also possible that you are running an after school club or maybe you're president of your sports team. Just don't forget to have fun while you're still young!

Mostly

You seem to be one of the skilled teens that can balance having a social life with doing well in school. Some of your favorite school activities probably include school sports and dances because it's

more time to spend with your friends while doing school related activities.

Mostly

You don't have an active interest in school, but you at least care enough to be reading your school newspaper right now, right?

Just Another Snow Day?



Emily Frongillo
Staff Writer

It's occurred to me that weather in New England will never be predicted correctly, no matter how smart the weather people think they are. After years of trying to beat the snow day system, I've decided that I ought to carry around various pieces of winter paraphernalia for when a bucket of white mush tumbles down on my head in May. There's a half-inch of snow when they're predicting an avalanche. I try to plan for a snow day when the weather

It's easy to find something fun to do. Build a snowman! Dust off an old board game, like Mousetrap.

channel goes on Red Alert and starts screaming, "Code one! Bring out the plows!" But it never happens the way we plan. Then when there is a snow day, I get caught in the house twiddling my thumbs and stuffing my face with Cheetos.

So what will cure those winter blues? Surely not nine consecutive hours of "Tony Hawk's American Wasteland." There are plenty of wintry activities that seem simple, but might just be what you need to give yourself a boost. See what people around you are doing. Just because there's snow outside doesn't mean you need to be a shapeless blob. If the neighbor children are horsing around in the snow disturbing your 2:00 pm naptime, hurl a massive snowball at them, and duck-quickly. For some reason those little kids have throwing arms like rocket launchers. A snowball fight is a great way to get out and get some exercise, as well as have some good old-fashioned fun.

Make some hot cocoa. Come on, there has to be cocoa somewhere in your house! If I can scrounge up some twelve-year-old chocolate powder I ate back in first grade, nothing's impossible. Use milk to make it instead of water, and don't hesitate to indulge in a bucket of marshmallows. It makes you feel warm and fuzzy. But don't drink it if it smells like leftover Halloween candy on Easter. As long as you're breaking over the food, why not make a gingerbread house to spice up your winter wonderland? Okay, so Christmas is over and you aren't a witch trying to capture Hansel and Gretel, but, if you buy ingredients ahead of time to save for your next snow day, you could have some serious fun. Even if it falls over because you ate the foundation, you can still give yourself something to do. Just take a picture before it topples.

The point is we often brush aside the simple, fun activities out of laziness, not boredom. You'll realize it's not hard to find something to do. Build a snowman! Dust off an old board game, like Mousetrap. But good luck putting all the little pieces together and yelling, "I can't find the little silver marble to set off the trap!" only to have your younger sister tell you she swallowed it last year. Write a short story about what you would do if you weren't too lazy to get off the couch (and submit it to Excelsior!) But most of all, enjoy the snow day. If you're a senior, call your younger friends and gloat about not having to make it up at the year's end. Don't turn it into just another lazy-fest; I guess that's what I'm saying. Happy snow day!

Valentine's Day Wishes

Stephen, I hope you have a good Valentines Day - from your friend, Teresa Bonanno

H A R R Y P O T T E R
I LOVE YOU!!

Happy Valentines Day Linds love, Ren

Happy Valentines Day beautiful. You are the most amazing person in this world and no one else could ever take your place. Love, Handsome.

Jimmy Flynn, the first time i caught a glimpse of your long legs running around the track i knew you were mine. Love, your fan club. PS did you get the sign?

Dear J. Chan, I HAVE YOUR HOTT RAINBOW SWEATER! love, Bianca

Sara, Best luck o you in the future at BC! Love, Luke

You cant have your fifty cents back, but complete your own two mile.

Dear allison, You know i love falling aslep to thunderstorms. And i know you love falling asleep with sandstorms. Love, your sandstorm

Dear SHS, Happy Valentines Day. Love, anonymous

RGKC<3soredunculoulove,K

Olivia Lapriore have a wonderful V-Day. You're the best! Love, Tom

To kitty whose presence brightens every facet of my existence, please, for the love of all that is and ever will be, do not leave my side. with all the accredation harbored within me, Dragon, Lord of the Underworld

Amy Gregory, When i think of you i have mondo withdrawls. I cannot express how painful it is, tears flow from my eyes like willow branches gently descend from a tree. Please send me a message in a bottle - we are destined to frolick through wednesdays together. Love, Beecho Biggidy

I THINK YOU ARE A NICE GIRL, and you are hot and athletic..Erin K. I LOVE YOU. love, EP [W.C]

ANNA CHAN: Why didn't you give that man a spongebath at the retirement home last night? He misses you...=(

Vanessa- Be my valentine I love you! Love, Joe Carvalno

Sara, you're too cool for the crier, bigger and better. from, Mike

Dear Pony...I'm so glad you're finally single to win the hearts of some fabulous men, LeLe

To my two very dear friends, (you know who you are): please make my valentines day happy by getting together. Or else 3 will throw a lemming at you.

Dear SHS, have a happy valentines day! Love, Superfan

Hi eveyone! To my loves, i demand aunty rights! To mike and mal, go to prom! To eveyone else, umm, happy loooooove day<3

My Matt, happy Valentines Day. I know things have been weird but i love you anyways. Be mine forever? Yes please. Love always, Chelsea

You're the coolest zoo animal ever..we love you little monkey. From, the cool kid.

TTT, life is like a bicycle, you fall off when you stop peddling nice bike! - your MBL

MBL, life is like a bicycle you fall off when you stop peddling! one hott bike! TTT

If you were to call me pudding I would take it as a compliment. You're sort of cute.

Pat, i love you more thn you will ever know

Dearest Ben L'Bassi, I sit near you in math class and have secretly liked you for a lon time, but don't know how to tell you. You're amazing, be my valentine. Love, the girl behind you.

Michelle and Cailin! Happy Valentine's Day!<3.

Kati, Lobe, Keith & Lauren, have an awesome Valentines Day! i love all of you more than anything<3 you're the best love always, Ashley

Happy Valentines Day Amanda, Lindsey, Marsha, Natasha, Rola & Nina. Mr. Costa will you be our valentine? haha!

Christine Guarino you are amazing! Happy Birthday!

Rudi. it's the season of love, will you marry me?! =)

Alex! I love you so much happy valentines day. Love, Jen



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Will Reese and Joaquin steal the show?

The Glory of the Oscars



Karolina Pekala
Features Editor

The most important day of the entertainment season has just occurred; nominees for the seventy-seventh annual Oscars were announced on January 31, 2006. Although the obvious choices were already predicted, there were still some nominations that were quite surprising.

The Oscar buzz has been circling *Brokeback Mountain* since October, even though the film wasn't released until mid-December. This heart-wrenching love story about Ennis, played by Heath Ledger, is about a cowboy who can never realize true happiness because he is constantly trying to resist a fellow cowboy, played by Jake Gyllenhaal. Both have won nominations, Ledger, only twenty-six, won a nomination for Best Actor, while Gyllenhaal could walk away with Best Supporting Actor. *Brokeback Mountain* is also nominated for Best Picture, Supporting Actress (Michelle Williams, who is currently Ledger's real life love interest), as well as Best Director. One Vegas gambling website has given the film a ten to one chance of winning Best Picture. All in all, *Brokeback* scored eight nominations.

Another film that has been earning Oscar praise since its debut late this fall is *Walk the Line*. It chronicles Johnny Cash's and June Carter Cash's relationship, and has gotten Oscar nominations for Best Actor (Joaquin Phoenix) and Actress (Reese Witherspoon). However, the film lacks nominations in any other acting categories.

Surprise nominations have also come for several actresses. Keira Knightly, an actress in her early twenties, has received a nomination for Best Actress, which most account for the Academy's praising "new talent." Knightly is most famous for her performance next to Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Charlize Theron, who won the Oscar for her role in *Monster*, has been nominated once again for Best Actress for *North Country*, a gritty film about sexual assault in the mining industry. However, reviews for the film were lukewarm, and many suppose it is merely an acknowledgement of her past talent.

George Clooney, who is best known for his suave looks and worldwide blockbusters, has won several nominations for his PG film *Good Night and Good Luck*, which he directed and acted in. It received a nomination for Best Actor (David Strathairn), Best Film, and Director. Clooney is also up for a Supporting Actor Oscar for his role in *Syriana*.

Other nominated films include *Capote*, *Transamerica*, in which Felicity Huffman portrays a man changing into a woman, and *Crash*, a film that analyzes racism.

The Oscars come late this year on Sunday, March 5, since the Academy didn't want to compete with other award shows. Tune in and watch the glitz and glamour, as well as hilarious host Jon Stewart.

Howard Stern Returns



Amanda Dick
Student Affairs



Opinionated Howard Stern returns to radio more fired up than ever.

Howard Stern made a "Sirius" change at the beginning of January when he left behind his old home on free public radio, including Boston's WBCN 104.1, for Sirius satellite radio. His new contract with Sirius Satellite radio is for five years for \$500 million.

Stern left after a long uphill battle with the Federal Communications Commission over inappropriate features of his radio show. The former show was frequently interrupted by censors, which made it difficult for listeners to follow the show. Additionally, he was removed from six radio stations before he signed with Sirius. Stern was disappointed with how Clear Channel Communications Inc. handled the FCC, "I thought Clear Channel and companies like that were going to fight the FCC. I kept hanging around. And they never fought back. ... They are cowards. They bow, and they deserve to be destroyed." It is difficult to say how much of a threat this shift poses to free radio.

More than 1.1 million subscribers joined Sirius Satellite Radio within the last quarter of 2005, most likely as a result of Howard Stern fans following him to his new show. Despite the \$13 per month fee, Sirius listeners have jumped from 600,000 subscribers to 3.3 million. Sirius' competition, XM Satellite Radio, boasts 6 million subscribers. Satellite radio is gaining interest, but it is hard to imagine people ever giving up free public radio.

For those that desire controversial content in the morning, Sirius radio is the place for them. He now has two channels all too himself all day on Sirius. This new domain gives him free reign to say whatever he wants. Stern believes it is dangerous to "shut people like me up." Howard Stern said that he wasn't going to swear on his new show, but on Monday, January 9th, the launch off his new show, USA Today counted 170 swear words between 6 and 10 am. Howard Stern even swore himself when the question of whether he got married to his girlfriend, Beth Ostrosky. The premise of Stern's radio show hasn't changed with the advent of a new location, it's still the same old dirty jokes. Stern wants his new show to be more about free ideas, not rejoicing at his unlimited swearing ability. Stern thinks the future of satellite radio is promising, "as years go by, people will come because plain, old, boring radio is not serving the audience."

Anchors Aweigh!



Dan Levine
Sports Editor

Despite the fact that there have been numerous movies about the United States Navy itself, there has yet to be a film on the big screen regarding the United States Naval Academy, the school which all of the naval officers have attended. This all changed on January 27, when "Annapolis" hit movie theatres.

The film was about a young man named Jake (played by James Franco), who grew up as the son of a former Naval Academy student. His mother sadly had past away years before. After introducing himself to a girl at a bar the day



James Franco and Tyrese Gibson square off in the anticipated naval movie Annapolis.

before leaving across the bay for Annapolis, he arrived at the Naval Academy to find that the same girl he had just made a move for was, in fact, an officer at the academy.

Once established at Annapolis, however, the rambunctious Jake reveals constantly against his fellow plebes (freshmen at the academy), but most prevalently against his main overseeing officer Lieutenant Cole (played by Tyrese Gibson), an ex-marine who recently became a Naval officer. After squaring off with Cole on multiple occasions, the ex-boxer Jake entered the boxing tournament of the Naval Academy: the Brigade Championships.

The movie followed Jake as he went back and forth between his home and Annapolis, showing the many hardships he had to endure. Eventually, after contemplating leaving the academy, Jake fights in the Brigade Championship and faced off against the main contestant, with whom Jake had previous arguments. Similar to "Remember the Titans" and "Coach Carter," the movie concluded fantastically in a fight to the finish between Cole and Jake. Who won? See the movie and find out for yourself!

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The Piano Man



Anne McCarthy
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

The "piano man" filled the TD Banknorth Garden with the sweet sounds of his grand piano, his resonating voice, and an undeniable energy. Billy Joel put on a performance that was nothing less than spectacular on Thursday, January 17th in Boston. Performing for a solid 2 1/2 hours with no intermission, Joel kept the crowd on their feet for the entirety of the show, even during slower songs such as "New York State of Mind." While Joel opened the show with some less-known songs from his older albums, the latter part of his show included hit songs like "We Didn't Start the Fire," "River of Dreams," "Always a Woman," "Still Rock n' Roll to Me," "Movin' Out," and "You May Be Right," among others.

Joel was flawless from his dexterous fingers flying over the piano keys to his tosses and catches with the microphone. While Joel apologized to the people who had a view of the back of his head, joking that "they could check their make-up" on his bald, reflection-projecting head, he could be easily forgiven. Joel's piano-rotated 360 degrees on a moving platform throughout the night, giving the entire audience a look at Joel from every angle.

Joel's first show in Boston of his 2006 tour was huge success. It broke up a week-long stint performing at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Due to such huge demand in Boston, Joel scheduled more shows at the TD Banknorth Garden in which he continued to wow crowds. Performing from his heart night after night, Billy Joel has enacted the thought that "It's all about soul..."



Even after years of singing audience favorites, Billy Joel continues to keep it fresh and keep his fans happy and on their feet.



Angelina Jolie and beau Brad Pitt seen here with adopted son Maddox Jolie-Pitt-another baby Jolie-Pitt is on the way!

Hollywood's Baby Boom



Sara Troccoli
Staff Writer

This past year was certainly filled with many Hollywood births and pregnancies. Many were kept untold or secretive of course until the paparazzi got involved and spilled the surprising news to us. It almost seemed as if day to day there was a new celebrity birth, or another star was pregnant yet again.

Some of the most surprising births and pregnancies came this past year. It came, as almost a complete shock when we found out Britney Spears was pregnant with new hubby, Kevin Federline's baby. Though still confused about the relationship/marriage between the two, married in September of 2004, it was even more outrageous to find out that teen pop idol icon Britney Spears was to be a mother. The news came around April 2005 that she was pregnant, and she did not seem hesitant about it at all. She said she was looking forward to parenthood and becoming a young mother. The baby was delivered via a c-section on Wednesday September 14th. Guess that means no more midrifts for Ms. Spears anymore. The baby was born both a happy and healthy boy, and was later named Sean.

As a new month approached, so did a new baby girl. Violette was the name given to the daughter of actress Jennifer Garner and actor Ben Affleck. After hearing rumors that Jen was pregnant with Ben's child it was difficult to believe. It seemed as if the two were "just friends", but in reality a secretive wedding was under the works. After discovering she was pregnant in late May, the two wed on June 26th in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Just after six months of marriage the two have already begun their journey through parenthood. Both were very excited about the birth of their daughter born Thursday evening, December 1, 2005.

Angelina Jolie recently confirmed that she was pregnant. But who could the possible father of this baby be? Perhaps a Brad Pitt who she has been seen canoodling everywhere with. This is Angelina's first pregnancy and this baby will be her first biological child. As of now she is the adoptive mother of two children, Maddox 4, from Cambodia, and Zahara 1, whom she recently adopted in July from Ethiopia. Brad has recently been taking steps in adopting Maddox and Zahara, and changing their name to Jolie-Pitt. Brad has wanted a family for a long time, as well as Jolie, and things seem to be heading in that direction this new couple.

Headlines reading "Cruises' fiancée pregnant", was a big shock especially since the two, Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise, had just announced that they were dating. It came as another shock when Cruise proposed to Katie atop of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, just after two months of dating. They announced Holmes pregnancy in early October and said they were unsure of the baby's gender. The baby is Holmes first, and Tom's third, because of his two step- children from past marriage with Nicole Kidman. Dedvete told people "Katie and Tom are very excited, and the entire family is very excited".

There were many other surprising births and pregnancies this year as well. The year kicked off for the Harry Potter author, J.K. Rowling with a birth of a cheerful baby girl. This daughter is the second of her and husband Dr. Neil Murray and her third due to a previous marriage. In February old spice girl, Victoria Beckham and British soccer sensation David Beckham has their third son, Cruz. Adam Sandler is happy to be a father for the first time, it's about time he's a "big daddy". It will be the first child for him and comedian wife, Jackie. More surprisingly our favorite "Holla Back Girl!" announced that she was pregnant. Gwen along with husband Gavin Rossdale are very happy and excited about preparing for their first child together. This was not all though; there were many other happy yet surprising births and pregnancies amongst the stars that came in throughout 2005, the year we can now call "A Hollywood Baby Boom".

Mary Poppins Returns



Carolina Vega
Sports Editor

On January 27th, Universal Pictures finally released its both twisted and humorous movie Nanny McPhee to eager audiences.

Directed by Kirk Jones and written by Emma Thompson, with some influence from the author Christianna Brand's Nurse Matilda books, the tale is very well expressed.

It is unfortunate that the movie begins with a cheesy, "There is a story to tell," entrance, which is along the lines of the happily long forgotten Winnie the Pooh cartoon series.

However, the movie recovers itself nicely, and immediately launches itself into outlining the tragic state of a widower and his seven children, whose mother has just passed away. Mr. Brown, being the impoverished owner of a mortuary, is totally distracted from the doings and needs of his children at this point, and thus they decide to take matters into their own hands.

The children, who grieve for their mother, absolutely refuse to be cast into someone else's caring hands. Thus, led by the eldest boy, Simon Brown, (Love Actually's Thomas Sangster), the seven are depicted in all their rebellious glory, as they manage to scare away their seventeenth nanny since their mother's death.

Mr. Brown (played by Colin Firth) nearly lost all presence of mind when he was later told that no nanny would ever set foot in his house again, until he was surprised by the classic Mary Poppins arrival of the mysteriously magical Nanny McPhee (played by Emma Thompson).

McPhee immediately sets about teaching the children some manners, and how to obey her Five Simple Rules. At first the seven show no fear, thinking that this nanny - though absolutely abhorrent to behold considering her face's two immense moles and long protruding tooth, her frizzy hair, and her thick trunk - was no different from the others.

Simon Brown and his tiny army soon learn otherwise, and begin to either follow McPhee's lead or suffer the magical consequences when she firmly bangs her power wrought walking stick.

It is necessary to note that the end is a little rushed and is not smoothly approached by earlier events, but it is not overly sappy, which is all that matters.

This PG rated movie is definitely one suited for the whole family; former Mary Poppins fans and today's Harry Potter and magic loving youth alike will find something to enjoy about Nanny McPhee.



Nanny McPhee-a modern day Mary Poppins.

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"The Family Stone" not a Christmas hit



Sarah Blakeslee
Staff Writer

The Family Stone hit theaters in December of 2005, looked like a good movie in the previews but turned out to be a disappointment. Starring many good and famous actors such as Diane Keaton, Luke Wilson, Rachel McAdams and Sex in The City's Sarah Jessica Parker you would think this movie would be a hit. Sarah who played as Meredith went with her boyfriend Dermot Mulroney who played Everett to spend Christmas with his family. The family immediately hates the uptight Meredith. Everett attempts to convince his mom to give him her grandmother's wedding ring to propose to Meredith. The story goes on with Meredith not being able to handle the family and having her sister come out to support her. This is where the plot becomes random with Everett



falling in love with someone else, Meredith falling in love with someone else also, and Everett's sister Amy getting back together with the boy she tried to avoid the whole movie. The twist at the end didn't make sense and left you feeling like, "WHAT JUST HAPPENED!?" Jen Erickson says, "I wouldn't recommend this movie it seems like the producers were trying too hard to be random and funny". There was a deaf gay guy dating a black guy and they adopt a baby and the father and son get stoned together. These are some of the random parts in the movie that have nothing to do with the plot. If you haven't already seen this movie I wouldn't recommend picking it up at blockbusters when it comes out to

Look for Heath Ledger in Your Local Theater!



Jenn Smith
Staff Writer

If you've never heard of the gorgeous Australian actor Heath Ledger, you must have been living under a rock for the past 4 years. He's got looks, he's got talent, and he's also got two new movies out in theaters world-wide. These movies are *Casanova* and *Brokeback Mountain*.

Let's start with one and then move to the other. *Casanova* (Heath Ledger), the world's greatest lover, has finally found his match in a headstrong and beautiful young woman played by Sienna Miller. When Giacomo Casanova discovered Francesca Bruni, he met his ultimate romantic

match. Not only a dashing rebel and wit, Casanova is also a vulnerable young man who is chasing after love as bishop Pucci of the Inquisition chases him. Throughout this movie *Casanova* begins to see the vital difference between the allure of conquest and the power of true love. This comical little drama is due out in theaters December 25. Having been out for awhile, it's had nice reviews from movie critics and movie-goers alike.

Brokeback Mountain is not only known for Heath Ledger, but also for his lover Jake Gyllenhaal. This epic love story, set against the wondrous landscapes of both Wyoming and Texas, tells the story of two young men who meet in the summer of 1963 while driving cattle along the mountain range. One is a ranch-hand, while the other is a rodeo cowboy. They unexpectedly form a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the power and endurance of true love. This once in a lifetime movie has been loved so much by the public that it roped in three Critics' Choice Awards on Monday.

The nation's broadcast film critics voted *Brokeback* its best picture at its 11th annual Critics' Choice. It also named the film's creator, Ang Lee, and the year's best director. *Brokeback Mountain* had been nominated for eight Critics' Choice Awards, followed by *Crash* with six.

Brokeback Mountain, which has been a box office hit, has already been named best picture by the New York and Los Angeles film critics' organizations. It goes into the Golden Globe Awards next Monday with a leading of seven nominations.

Discovering Narnia



Carolina Vega
Sports Editor

While no movie will ever quite measure up to C.S. Lewis's renowned books, Director Andrew Adamson certainly came close with his production of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. This PG rated movie was released nationwide on Dec. 9th, and was received with immense enthusiasm by both fans of the seven-book Narnia series and audiences unfamiliar with the series.

The story starts out in WWII stricken London, from whence the four main characters, the Pevensie siblings, leave for the safety of the country. Upon discovering the huge mansion and extensive lawns of a solitary old man named Mr. Kirke, with whom they were to stay, the Pevensies were thrilled at the prospect of how much fun they would have exploring the next day.

Unfortunately, the rain foiled their plans; they instead engaged in an indoor game of hide and seek, during which the youngest child Lucy (played by Georgie Henley), locates an old cupboard that acts as a door to another world. Eventually the other three also discovered the truth to little Lucy's story. In the snow covered world of Narnia, the Pevensies enjoyed themselves and the prospect of how they would spend their time until one of Narnia's talking creatures approached them; this talking beaver told them horrifying tales of the White Witch's cruel domination over the land, and of the long treasured prophecy that suggested the Pevensie children as Narnia's potential saviours.

Mary Poppins Returns



Carolina Vega
Sports Editor

On January 27th, Universal Pictures finally released its both twisted and humorous movie *Nanny McPhee* to eager audiences.

Directed by Kirk Jones and written by Emma Thompson, with some influence from the author Christianna Brand's *Nurse Matilda* books, the tale is very well expressed.

It is unfortunate that the movie begins with a cheesy, "There is a story to tell," entrance, which is along the lines of the happily long forgotten *Winnie the Pooh* cartoon series.

However, the movie recovers itself nicely, and immediately launches itself into outlining the tragic state of a widower and his seven children, whose mother has just passed away. Mr. Brown, being the impoverished owner of a mortuary, is totally distracted from the doings and needs of his children at this point, and thus they decide to take matters into their own hands.

The children, who grieve for their mother, absolutely refuse to be cast into someone else's caring hands. Thus, led by the eldest boy, Simon Brown, (*Love Actually*'s Thomas Sangster), the seven are depicted in all their rebellious glory, as they manage to scare away their seventeenth nanny since their mother's

death.

Mr. Brown (played by Colin Firth) nearly lost all presence of mind when he was later told that no nanny would ever set foot in his house again, until he was surprised by the classic Mary Poppins arrival of the mysteriously magical Nanny McPhee (played by Emma Thompson).

McPhee immediately sets about teaching the children some manners, and how to obey her Five Simple Rules. At first the seven show no fear, thinking that this nanny - though absolutely abhorrent to behold considering her face's two immense moles and long protruding tooth, her frizzy hair, and her thick trunk - was no different from the others.

Simon Brown and his tiny army soon learn otherwise, and begin to either follow McPhee's lead or suffer the magical consequences when she firmly bangs her power wrought walking stick.

It is necessary to note that the end is a little rushed and is not smoothly approached by earlier events, but it is not overly sappy, which is all that matters.

This PG rated movie is definitely one suited for the whole family; former Mary Poppins fans and today's Harry Potter and magic loving youth alike will find something to enjoy about *Nanny McPhee*.

2006 Peoples Choice Awards



Sarah Blakeslee
Staff Writer

The 23rd people choice awards aired January 10, 2006 on CBS. This year late night comedian Craig Ferguson hosted the awards. Jessica Simpson opened the awards performing her hit song; *These Boots Are Made For Walking*. Winners for the movie category were Sandra Bullock for favorite female movie star, beating Angelina Jolie and Nicole Kidman. Johnny Depp took the award home for favorite male movie star. Wedding crashers took home two awards that night.

Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson won for favorite on-screen match-up. Wedding crashers also won favorite movie comedy. Star wars III took home two big awards as well. Winning favorite movie drama and favorite movie. Other winners were Brad Pitt for favorite leading man, Jennifer Garner for favorite action star, Mathew McConaughey for favorite male action star, Reese Witherspoon for favorite leading lady, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory winning favorite family movie. Those were winners for movies. Some winners for the TV were, "My Name Is Earl", winning best new comedy, "American Idol winning", taking reality show competition, and Ellen Degeneres winning best daytime take show host.



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SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT AFFAIRS

Senior Video



Sarah Cicuto
Editor-in-Chief

Yearbook pictures, superlatives, senioritis... how could it get better? Obviously by having all those memories move in a video! It's senior video time again and that means we actually have to do something to contribute, seniors. Natalya Waye and others from the television productions classes are collecting pictures, video and music from the class of 2006.

The senior video is distributed to seniors at the end of the year, and watched at commemoration. So far, only a few groups of friends have submitted

pictures, and considering that the class is now 321 people large, it's pretty pathetic. On behalf of the television production students, seniors, please submit anything for this special memory!

Although production has yet to start, prospects include pictures from kindergarten to now of school events and just hanging out, video from prom, sporting events or get-togethers; anything that shows the seniors at their best and happiest will be on this tape.



Goodness zooming in to the action in the SHS studio.

TV Production



Nick Novotny
Staff Writer

Through out the year students are treated to fabulous work from the schools television production studio. Although students don't realize it, the TV production kids have done a lot for the school. They have filmed all of the school events, put on a live show every month, and have filmed every sporting event that happens. It's all in a days work for the TV kids. And as for the younger students, this is a class that you may really want to check out.

Shrewsbury Television Production has really taken broadcasting to a higher level, when compared to other schools. They are very fortunate and have really taken advantage with what they can do with the technology at their hands. This year has already been a rush for TV, with two news shows already gone live, and two Colonial Magazines (a show that allows students to be creative with a certain theme for the show) done, they look to keep on rolling. A four-year student in TV class, senior Greg Goodness says, "This has been a class that has really opened my eyes, for what I want to do after high school". While there are some students who take this seriously, someone who knows nothing about cameras can enjoy the class too. Senior Brain Lahase is a first year student who says "it's nice to know how to work a camera now, it's something that I may find useful if I ever get one".

Not only will you learn camera skills, but also if you are into acting, or being in front of the camera, this class is for you just as much. Sophomore Rachael Capucci says, "I've always wanted to be a news reporter, this has been a way for me to get some practice. It's also made me appreciate what goes on behind the scenes."

While the students do work on these live shows they also have assignments outside of school. School events are filmed inside and outside of school, from morning announcements, to the football games. Students are able to film and/or announce a game. If you ever wanted to try out being a sports broadcaster, it's certainly a fun way to get started. Every quarter a student has to acquire a total of six tapes. Tapes are given based on events that they film. A football game filmed on a Friday night may be worth two tapes, while a morning announcement could be one.

So if your still debating about joining the television class, I am telling you that you really should not miss out on something like this. Being a first year student in the class, I have already realized that I missed a real gem through high school. This class is a rare gem that is not found in many other schools, and if it is, it is not close to the quality that Shrewsbury has had through the years. You just never know unless you give it a try.



VS



Shrewsbury High vs. Saint John's: The Real Story



Kara Crosson
Student Affairs Editor

Since the beginning of time leaves have changed colors in the fall, students have wished for snow days and Saint John's High School has been rivals with Shrewsbury High. During the fall, winter, and spring when the two schools meet on the athletic field or track, emotions run high. The week before the football game Jay Costa, career counselor, football, girls' track and baseball coach, can be seen wearing red and white Pioneer apparel. To most of the school his reason for doing this is unknown. Has Mr. Costa gone crazy? Does he not have faith in his players? This is the same man who gets mad when girls wear Saint John's colors to indoor track practice, but freely walks around the halls proud to be wearing the opponents' colors. Senior football player Andrew Catino feels that when Costa is seen wearing the jersey it gives the team more energy and gets them ready to play. Junior football player Sam Onorato echoes his opinion saying "it gets us pumped to play and at the same time mad at Costa ... we make fun of him at practice."

This strategy method Costa uses against his players dates back to when he was a teenager himself. Class of '91 and a member of the football and baseball teams Costa has his own memories of SJ vs. SHS. He feels the competition was more intense back in the day, but that doesn't mean it has gone away completely. When Costa's game against SJ would come along in football season there was a ritual between the two teams. The toughest player from each school would trade practice jerseys and wear them all week. This symbolized that they were the toughest player and were used to get the team energized. These memories carry back even further.

Mark Sullivan, class of 1972, was a member of the SHS track team from 1968 to 1972. Because SHS did not have their own track field until 1971 they shared the SJ track. "While it sometimes made me a little un-easy to see a SJ track

member cheer us on, I still accepted it! Of course, once a year when we were matched up against SJ on their/our field we reverted back to our rivalrous ways. Still it was a little bittersweet, and even a bit confusing as we had sometimes shared team snacks with each other (oranges, chocolate, etc.) and found ourselves apologizing to each other for holding out on each other once a year during our scheduled match up. By and large I got to uniquely know SJ track guys in the early 70's as both great competitors and good friends!"

The crew teams also meet at some races and Bob Holland, class of 1972 has memories he will never forget. "Up until our senior year, we lost each season as St John's had more rowers (we had about a dozen on a good day and they had three dozen) and they always found a way to beat us near the end. Fortunately, our senior year in the fall of 1971, we rowed against St. John's in the Head of the Charles Race, a three-mile single file row up the Charles River in Boston, against the clock. On a cold, raw, fall day we rowed as hard as we could, and ended up beating St. John's by one one-hundredth of a second (.01 sec) over the three mile course. Bragging rights were ours! They beat us in the spring, but who cared? We had 'whooped' them at the Head of the Charles, a race we to this day have not forgotten."

Of course, along with the actual players the students at SHS get involved with the rivalry as well. TJ Williams thinks that the games versus the Pioneers are "something to look forward to." He also feels that the baseball game is the most anticipated game of the year, while Onorato feels the football game is. The two teams also match up in tennis and ice hockey.

The rivalry viewed from a Shrewsbury High student's point of a view is larger than up the hill, but it exists both places. Although feelings of hatred have diminished from past years it will always be around.

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT AFFAIRS

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SHS Mural 2006



Cissy Huang
Editorial Editor

Scaffolding is up, letters are outlined, and shapes have begun to emerge on the wall of the Shrewsbury High School Commons as Senior Courtney Bradley diligently works away on the mural that will be her Senior Exhibition and gift to the SHS community for years to come. The Town Crier conducted an interview with Miss Bradley on how she is leaving her mark.



The Shrewsbury High School Commons is the site of a beautiful work in progress.

Town Crier: when did you first start thinking of your senior exhibition?

Courtney Bradley: Mural 2006 didn't actually turn into a senior exhibition until the last few months of Junior year. It was originally just going to be a side project of mine but my art teacher, Mrs. Fox, highly encouraged the switch to Senior Exhibition.

TC: Who is advising you on this project?

CB: Mrs. Mongiat is my main advisor because she is in charge of the Senior Exhibition program. But I work more directly with Mrs. Holloway, the art director and Mrs. Bordeaux, the professional muralist I hired. All

Holloway. We went through yearbooks to find every club and activity and also to see the poses of different students in those activities. I put out a questionnaire at the beginning of the year that gave me a general idea of what students liked and didn't like about the school. Many of the poses are actually of myself that we have transformed into different people in those activities.

TC: Are any other students assisting you with project?

CB: Many students. It has mostly been the two extremes of freshman and senior classes but all students are welcome to join us. There will be a calendar and volunteer sign-up sheet hanging from the scaffolding for students to see everyday as a reminder.

Most of the work happens after school.

TC: Who is providing for the materials needed in this project?

CB: Although my initial funding was given to me by the Senior Exhibition account, I have applied for different grants and I sent out a letter to most if not all the companies in Shrewsbury asking for donations. The project is funded completely by donation. In the near future there will be a fundraiser where students who would like to be remembered in this mural can pay a certain undetermined amount and have their name and class put on a book that is in the mural (there will be a bookcase of books specifically for this).

"Now that there is paint on the wall, please don't touch it, and please stay off the scaffolding."

the designs on the wall then must be approved by the administration.

TC: Have the designs been approved?

CB: For the most part they have been approved but plans for a mural change and grow as they go from a sketch to what is actually on the wall.

TC: What is the theme of this mural?

CB: The theme is along the lines of "The Shrewsbury High School Student". It encompasses all the clubs and activities that students can be involved in. It also follows the school mission statement.

TC: How did you go about forming these designs?

CB: It was a collaborative effort between myself, Mrs. Bordeaux and Ms.

After School Jobs



Amanda Dick
Student Affairs

Whether you have an after school job or not, you've probably been seriously lacking in cash and considering getting one before. It involves a lot of extra time and possibly sacrificing nights out with friends, but the benefit of having some extra money is undeniable.

This is what some SHS students said are the best and worst things about their jobs:

Name: Danielle Doe
Grade: 12
Job: Target
Cashier

Best Thing: "It's great to receive a paycheck and have money to spend on gas, weekend activities, new clothing, etc."

Worst Thing: "The people can be really terrible. They assume I'm worth less than them and mock me. One lady, screaming, insulted me in front of the entire store. It was humiliating. That's not worth 7.25/hour."

Name: Cara Howe
Grade: 12

Job: Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation

Best Thing: "It's really good pay especially considering the difficulty of keeping the clock and the score for the basketball winter league. Plus I get to play basketball in between games."

Worst Thing: "The job is only one day a week, so if you're looking for a lot of money, you need another job. The morning shift can be early, too."

Name: Gary Dodakian

Grade: 12

Job: Sunday School Teacher

Best Thing: "I love the little kids and barking at them. They squeal and it makes

me happy. I love Armenian Church. More than my Saab."

Worst Thing: "It takes away from me running."

Name: Jana Bolton

Grade: 12

Job: Waitress at Southgate

Best Thing: "I love working with new and different people. My shifts are short too, I can still do after school sports and go out at night."

Worst Thing: "Sometimes the old people get a little cranky."

Name: A.J. Dick

Grade: 11

Job: Landry's

Bicycles

Best Thing: "I love the employee discounts on bike parts."

Worst Thing: "I don't like dealing with angry customers."

Name: Karolina

Pekala

Grade: 11

Job: Babysitter

Best Thing: "I love getting extra tips from one family. I have told them my hourly wage, but they always pay me more. They also let their kids just watch movies, and then I am free to do whatever I want."

Worst Thing: "Sometimes the kids throw temper tantrums and argue, and it takes a while to calm them down."

Name: Joe Ryan

Grade: 12

Job: Unemployed

Best Thing: "I enjoy having the freedom to go wherever my interests lead me."

Worst Thing: "I don't have money to take my beautiful girlfriend out to dinner."

Name: Amanda Cosenza

Grade: 12

Job: Hollister Brand Representative

Best Thing: "I loved seeing people I know coming in to shop."

Worst Thing: "It's so annoying to restock all the clothes. One time it took me an hour to restock the jeans wall, and then a bunch of girls came in and messed up all the sizes."

class would continue without their advisor. Who would pick up the newspapers from the printers? Who would check stories on due dates? Coming back from vacation students counted down until sixth period to see who their new teacher would be.

The door to the computer lab was unlocked and... there was no teacher. For the first few days back at school a substitute was assigned and students looked to Editors in Chief, Chris Cerrone and Sarah Cicuto for answers and guidance. Even Cerrone and Cicuto who have taken the class for three years did not have all the facts in the beginning. However, over time a teacher was assigned and things returned to normal.

Normal, in the journalism world would appear to be chaos to any passer-by. Music blares from one of the computers across the room, and Cerrone and Cicuto try to keep order.



Show me the money!

Journalism Chaos



Kara Crosson
Student Affairs Editor

Location: Shrewsbury High School, A-hallway, Room 302

Time: 6th period

What is really going on behind this closed door? Classroom A302 houses SHS' journalists for the *Town Crier*, which in the past has been supervised by English teacher Mrs. Jenn Blackburn. The students in the class were aware that after the winter vacation their beloved Mrs. Blackburn would not be returning. Already the mother of one little boy, Blackburn was due for another during the winter season. Students were not quite sure how the



The journalism class is now well supervised by Mrs. Waligora.



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Dr. Monaghan



Alaina McGinnis
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

As many students know, last year Shrewsbury High School lost one of its most beloved teachers to the University of Connecticut. Ms. Meg Monaghan left SHS after only two years of teaching to obtain her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction in Social Studies. Many students were upset when they heard that Ms. Monaghan was leaving; however, when they found out why she was leaving, they were excited for her. When asked why she was getting her Ph. D., she replied, "I chose to get it now, mainly because the opportunity presented itself... they made me an offer I could not refuse!"

Ms. Monaghan broke the news to her juniors (this year's seniors) during their Performance Assessment period. Many were concerned about recommendations, senior prom, senior faculty dinner, and graduation. However, there is no need to worry. She will be back for all these events and will be able to write recommendations.



Ms. Monaghan with two of her former students on Prom Night 2005

The classes that Ms. Monaghan is taking to fulfill her requirements are Quantitative Methods, an extremely difficult statistics class; Cognition Theory, a doctoral seminar that focuses on Learning theories; Higher Education in Film, a film research class that Ms. Monaghan is using to help her with her outside research; and a Social Studies Methods class that she has to attend as part of her independent study. Her independent study is focused on training Social Studies teachers.

Ms. Monaghan is also the Professional Development Center coordinator for Glastonbury, CT. This requires her to teach a junior level seminar for clinical placement students. Her degree will take a minimum of four years; however she expects it to take longer. "My degree will take a minimum of four years. At least."

The main part of the PhD is the dissertation. The dissertation is a research study and a paper. Both parts will take approximately a year each to complete. "I have no idea what I am going to do for my dissertation. I have until the beginning of the next year to figure that out," explained Ms. Monaghan. We miss you, Ms. Monaghan, and we wish you the best of luck with completing your Ph.D.



A typical Model UN conference

The United Nations at SHS



Aparna Garg
Student Affairs Editor

Imagine twenty-five delegates grouped in committees furiously debating issues ranging from the European Union to the Palestine-Israeli conflict, and you have a pretty good picture of Shrewsbury High School's Model United Nations Club!

Model UN is an innovative worldwide project that was taken up by the United Nations over 50 years ago to promote student and teacher interests in global issues and international relations. The concept began in the 1920s, years before the actual United Nations was founded, when students held a series of Model League of Nations.

The SHS branch of the club was founded two years ago by senior Jared Fernandez. Ms. Gaudet, who is a social studies teacher at SHS, is the advisor of the club.

The most exciting aspect of Model UN is having the chance to participate in conferences. A conference is an authentic simulation of the UN General Assembly and other bodies of the organization. The event, which attracts Model UN participants from many high schools, is organized into many subcommittees, each with a different topic to discuss. Each student attends the conference as a delegate from a pre-assigned nation.

The overall purpose of the conference is for all of the nations represented to come to a consensus to

resolve the issue at hand in a peaceful, dignified manner. The last conference SHS participated in was the one sponsored by St. John's on October 28, 2005. The Model UN team also plans on participating in a large-scale conference at Northeastern University in May. Alex Olivares, who is a junior at SHS, joined the club at the beginning of this year. "At my first conference, I represented France. I was a little nervous at first, but overall it was a very good experience."

New members are always welcome. The club meets every Monday at 2:00 PM in Ms. Gaudet's room (A311). Participating in Model UN greatly enhances your knowledge of world issues, boosts problem-solving skills, teaches aspects of conflict resolution, and improves research and communication skills. In addition to all of these benefits, it creates the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Over 200,000 high school and college/university students worldwide are currently participating in the Model UN program, and the numbers are ever growing. Many of today's leaders in government, law, business, and the arts participated in Model UN during their academic careers. Former Model UN participants include Chelsea Clinton, World Court Justice Stephen M. Schwabel, and actor Samuel L. Jackson.

Musicians Showcase Talent



Carolina Vega
Sports Editor

On Saturday, January 14th, Worcester's beloved Mechanics Hall was home to the 49th annual Central District Senior High School Honors Concert. No less than 380 gifted instrumentalists and singers gathered together to present a matchless performance that day. These talented students presented from within four distinct groups: the symphony orchestra, the band, the jazz band, and the chorus.

In November, auditions were open to an interested 1,200 very competitive students. The ordeal that each group of musicians went through varied, but, in general, students were asked to do something very simple; often they played a few scales, a prepared piece, and a new piece that they had never before seen. If students were found to be lacking in any of these vital areas, then they would unfortunately be immediately rejected.

One week later the general results were released, and then another week later, specific information about each person's audition was distributed for personal review. Shrewsbury High was not lacking in representation within this prestigious program, to judge by the many students who were accepted for the Districts Concert of 2005.

"It's just really fun to be a part of something like this."

-Anne Rocheleau

Thanks to the four conductors, C. Thomas Brooks (chorus), Chas Baker (jazz), Patrick C. Smith (symphony orchestra), and Douglas A. Nelson (band), and the unrivaled students, the two, six hour long practices at Milford High were well spent.

The concert is so well known and patronized that it was sold out a long time before the performance actually took place.

Audience members were not disappointed; they were fascinated by exquisite samples of Beethoven and Giuseppe Verdi, which, with Mechanics Hall's perfect acoustics, were simply unbelievable. Many, including those who were a part of the ensembles, expressed pride in the fact that so many students came together and did so well, and in the fact that, when they all finally performed for the last time, the sound was so refined that it did not suggest hundreds of pre-diploma high school students.

Senior Anne Rocheleau, who has been playing the cello since the 7th grade, expressed her pleasure with having been accepted by the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association yet again. She has worked very hard to successfully balance academics, athletics, and music all through high school, and it shows; this was the third year that she performed within the District's symphony orchestra.

According to Rocheleau, she has kept returning to the District Auditions and performing as part of the symphony orchestra, not only because of the honor of performing with so many talented musicians, but also because, "It's just really fun to be a part of something like this."

School Bus Update



Nick Novotny
Staff Writer

At the start of this year, a major change occurred with school transportation. With the school on a tight budget, alternative ways of raising money were necessary. With teachers leaving, new ones coming in, freshmen sports being cut, everyone wondered when it would all stop. Parents also had to pay \$190 a year to have their children (\$380 cap per a family) ride the bus to school and back.

The good news is that the bus fees have been very effective; Dr. Gutekanst stated that there have been no issues so far. Last year it seemed that this wasn't going to be a big hit and we would be seeing a lot more cars coming to school in the morning. Nevertheless, it has not been that bad around here.

Dr. Gutekanst said, "We had a lot more families buying the bus pass than we expected," which is a relief, but that



Bus fees will most likely be in effect next year.

could all change when we're in the dead of winter. Students have found alternative ways of getting to the high school, whether it is with their parents, upper classmen who can drive, or car pooling. Everything has seemed to work thus far.

As for next year, you can be sure that the bus fees will be there again and another sad thing (not so sad for the seniors) is that sport fees seem almost definite at this point. Hopefully, the sports fees for next year will go as smoothly as the bus fees went.

Success From The Rudolph Express



Nick Novotny
Staff Writer

The holidays have passed and certainly a lot of good has come from it. This past December, Bryan Lee had help starting a new program called *The Rudolph Express*. *The Rudolph Express* was a way for Shrewsbury students to give a little back to their community during the holiday season by making several kids happy at Umass Hospital, and here at the Little Colonials preschool.

After several meetings for the group, 60 students had signed up for the program. With a surprising amount of students signed up, there were many jobs to go around for everyone. In order to buy gifts for the kids, students during lunches went around for donations. There was a total of \$5,000 dollars made from this, which contributed to the many toys students bought from various stores like Target and KB Toys. In fact, many stores, including KB, gave discounts to help with this project. After having part of *The Rudolph Express* go out to buy toys, the other half wrapped the gifts the next day in the art room. Here they wrapped gifts, made little name tags, and added some decorations. Within the following days students went out to either Umass hospital, or the Little Colonials preschool. During that time students were paired up with a child that they could spend time with on their visit.

At the Umass hospital *The Rudolph Express* gave out various gifts to children who are not fortunate to receive any during the holidays. Senior Josh Thompson said, "We had a lot of fun bringing smiles upon the little kids' faces". The children at the hospital were very happy and enjoyed the time with the Shrewsbury High School students. Even kids coming in for just the day could come join *The Rudolph Express* with arts and crafts. All of the kids also received a gift.

Here at the Little Colonials preschool students took part in activities



such as painting little toys. Afterwards, the Little Colonials read a story to their high school partner. In the end, the Little Colonials

all received a gift. Sophomore Shawna Costigan said, "I liked going into the preschool because it made so many kids happy".

With so many gifts left over, the rest were then donated to the Friendly House Shelton. All in all, it looks like *The Rudolph Express* proved to be a very effective and helpful way to capture the holiday spirit. Since this was such a success, *The Rudolph Express* is planning on having another get together with the kids around Valentines Day. It would be of no surprise if this happened next year, considering how well it went. It's groups like these that can really help make a difference for someone.



Senior Anand Desai, Mr. Chase, and junior Dave Appelbaum fix fallen lights, the only glitch in the night; seniors Ryan McCarthy and Kara Crosson pose for a picture; juniors Julie Hannum, Meg Cleary, Jackie Jankowski, Katie Swedburg, Bridget Marden, Brianna Stidsen and Emily Trudeau are all smiles at Winter Ball.



Fix your Valentine's Sweet Tooth



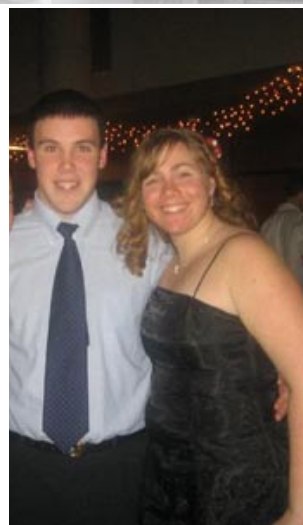
Alyssa L'Bassi
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

The valentine season is now upon us, and chocolate is on the mind of many women and men alike. It is the classic gift that anyone, as long as they like chocolate of course, will appreciate. The problem arises when actually deciding which chocolate to buy; stores are overfilled with a variety of decoratively wrapped heart-shaped, but which one do people really want?

When that question was asked to some of the Shrewsbury High students, Lindt Chocolate seemed to be the most popular. The renowned Swedish company is famous for their assorted truffles, a sure fire hit for any chocolate lover. If truffles are not the desired choice, then any of their flavored bars are also very popular. The nearest Lindt store can be found in the Solomon Pond Mall...and yes, they make pretty pre-wrapped boxes.

Hebert's was another popular choice for chocolate, with their multi flavored candy bars that have already been sold for various fundraisers around the school. Caramel was a landslide favorite among students. Other choice flavors for chocolate are the classic milk chocolate and white chocolate.

When shopping for chocolate this Valentine's Day, there's a wide variety and selection to pick from. Whether buying the never-fail assorted filled chocolates or a simple Hershey's kiss, it's sure to please.



Dancing in a Winter Wonderland



Miranda Jonsword
Features Editor

Even with midterms around the corner, students were still very much alive the weekend before as they danced the night away. Saturday, January 7th marked the second winter ball held here at SHS and was by far the more popular than last year since it was sold out.

The décor of the event was aesthetically pleasing (three cheers for student council!); the snowflake lights along the outsides of the staircase and draped icicle lights lit the area. Beautiful snowflake cascades hanging from the lights, snow dooms and snowflakes on the windows, small white trees atop the high tables with fake snow on the table, and a light, white curtain transformed the commons into elegant winter. As everyone filed into the dance in their semi formal attire, they walked under a blue and white balloon arch with a small, white tree underneath the arch. Thus, the decorations set the light and exciting mood for the night.

The music, unlike many other dances, was more or less equal in terms of the rap/hip-hop to other music ratio. Rock, R&B, and pop were incorporated as well. There were many couples present so whatever music played, slow or fast

(and even the modes in between that are hard to find a beat to), did not hold much importance.

Reactions generally weighed on the positive side. Senior Sarah Cicuto felt it was a worthwhile event. "The senior class definitely bonded even in the middle of all the freshmen." Students from different high schools were welcome such as Saint John's, which made it easier for those with relationships outside the SHS walls. With underclassmen having similar feelings, winter ball 2007 will most likely be sold out.

However, amidst the winter ball, there were people who showed up in hope of an easy entrance that sadly got turned away. It is only logical to think that another person may not show up even without the process set up at lunches where people on the waitlist would receive the tickets given up. Since pretty much everyone showed up, students without tickets were turned away. There were also those turned away for inappropriate dress. But do not droop your head if you were one of these unfortunate cases, there is always next year, unless of course, you are a senior, and let's face it, college is just more fun!



Fashion Through the Frost



Samantha Hamel
Fashion Editor

It's that season again. Time to turn up the heat, sleep with more blankets, drink cocoa, and shovel the driveway. Besides the aforementioned cocoa, winter can be somewhat of a drag, especially where wardrobe is concerned. Here are some ways to conquer both style and below zero temperatures.

The scarf. It's classic, traditional, and trendy too. Scarves aren't just for bundling up to scrape ice off the sidewalk anymore, but are also worn in school or at events for style and comfort. Scarves can say a lot about your personality and personal taste, depending on which colors or textures you choose to wear. There are endless possibilities for your own ideal scarf: thick or thin, store-bought or handmade, silk or furry. Scarves also have a series of wrapping techniques, so choose whatever way best suits your outfit and comfort.



The hat. Down with the hoods: a cute hat is the way to go during this frigid season. Hats have made a comeback with a grander purpose than simply looking cute on your head. For yet another bitterly cold New England winter, make sure you find a hat that fits your comfort needs as well as your style. Like scarves, there are all sorts of hats that are acceptable to wear out in the snow while shoveling (or making snowmen) and are also chic enough to wear out. Try to choose one that is large enough to cover your ears!

The boot. That's right, boots are still the best decision for faring the winter. But your boots don't have to resemble Frosty the Snowman's. UGG's, for example, have remained in style for yet another winter season. Fuzzy and adorable, UGG's keep you both warm and in vogue. If you can do so, try a pair that has something extra, like a wedge, a color, or laces.

The coat. A formally ignored suggestion made by your mother in an irritated voice on your way out the door to school in the morning. As it turns out-prepare yourself, this is a real shocker-wearing a coat really does help you stay healthy and warm. Ski jackets have gradually reappeared in the spotlight and are especially stylish with a faux-fur trim on the hood. The sharper look of military-style jackets has stayed popular from autumn into winter as well.

Colors: black and white. While any color is, of course, acceptable, the hottest colors this season- especially when used together- are the classics, black and white. You can incorporate these tones into your wardrobe as either whole outfits, or as small pieces, since they are both very versatile.

Overall, the look this winter season is individual comfort. Dress the nines, but don't forget about the harsh conditions out there. Bundle up! Winter isn't nearly over yet.

Which Cast Struts Your Style?



Samantha Hamel
Fashion Editor

Take this quiz to find out which TV cast best suits your style!

1. Which location do you feel most at home in?
 - a. The city
 - b. The suburbs
 - c. The beach
2. Which color scheme suits you most?
 - a. Deep tones
 - b. Pastels
 - c. Vibrant colors
3. Which style purse do you love to tot around?
 - a. Thrift store- its unique and no one else has it!
 - b. Household designer- it's the best!
 - c. Whichever one matches your current outfit, of course!
4. You are most comfortable in _____
 - a. Retro jeans
 - b. Sweats
 - c. A swimsuit
5. Which do you opt for when you have to dress up?
 - a. A simple cocktail dress, embellished with jewelry
 - b. Your favorite dress that you wear to all dressy events
 - c. Something slinky and skimpy



Mostly A's- "Sex and the City"
You may be living in the suburbs, but your style says that you're a city girl at heart. Your eclectic taste allows you to blend the expensive with the inexpensive to create your own unique look.

Mostly B's- "Desperate Housewives"
Just like these suburbanites, you go for a casual chic in your daily attire. You are at ease with your sense of style and don't go out of your way to impress when you just aren't in the mood.



Mostly C's- "The OC"
You waste no time in embracing every hot trend, just like these beach girls. You love to be the first sporting the latest styles and adore setting a fashion standard for everyone around you.

Golden Globe Fashionistas



Samantha Hamel
Fashion Editor



Keira Knightley of *Pride and Prejudice* in a Valentino frock with ornate details such as embroidery and tassels.



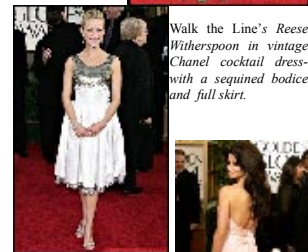
Natalie Portman in black, vintage Chanel.



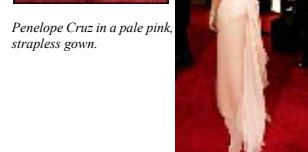
Scarlett Johansson of *Match Point* in a fiery red, Valentino gown that perfectly showcases her voluptuous figure.



Evangeline Lilly of *Lost* in a seafoam green, empire-waisted Elie Saab dress.



Walk the Line's Reese Witherspoon in vintage Chanel cocktail dress- with a sequined bodice and full skirt.



Penelope Cruz in a pale pink, strapless gown.